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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

E. F. BEAM, Business Manager.

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☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send them until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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VOL. XI. PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1873. NO. 85.

FIRST EDITION

EUROPE

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

TICHBORNE CASE POSTPONED.

LONDON, December 19.—Dr. Kennedy, counselor for the Tichborne claimant is ill, and the case is postponed till the 29th inst.

THE ASHANTEE CAMPAIGN—KING OF DAHOMEY TAKES A HAND.

LONDON, December 19.—Dispatches from Gold Coast announce that the King of Dahomey has joined the Ashantees. The fever continue among the British troops and one hundred invalids have been sent to St. Helena.

France.

PRESIDENT'S SALARY INCREASED.

PARIS, December 19.—In the Assembly, today, the bill increasing the salary of President MacMahon was passed.

Marine News.

PLYMOUTH, December 19.—Arrived, steamship Goethe, from New York.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 19.—The rate of discount in open market for three months 4 3-16 per cent, or 5-16 below bank rate. The amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance to day £18,000. Consols for money 91¾@91⅝; for account 92@92⅛; 5-20s of '65, 94¼; do '67, 94⅝; 10-40s, 92; new 5s, 91⅜; New York Central 78; Erie 36⅞; Erie preferred 56⅜. Linseed oil 29s 3d@29s 6d. Turpentine 31s.

PARIS, December 19.—Rentes 58 francs 25 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, December 19.—Cotton easier and prices declined; middling upland 8¼d; Orleans 8⅝@8¾d; sales 12,000 bales; American 7,600 bales; speculation and export 2,500 bales. Cotton to arrive lower; sales upland, nothing below good ordinary, at 8¼d, shipped November; Orleans, shipped November and December, 8 7-16d. Breadstuffs quiet. Corn 26s 3d. Receipts of wheat the past three days, 25,000 bushels; American 20,000 bushels. Pork 64s. Tallow 38s 9d. Others unchanged.

ANTWERP, December 19.—Refined petroleum 31¾ francs.

VILLE DU HAVRE DISASTER.

Statement by Captain Surmont, who Attributes all Blame to the Loch Earn.

NEW YORK, December 19.—Captain Surmont, of the Ville du Havre, has made a statement concerning the disaster to the vessel and those on board, but it adds little to what was previously known of the tragical occurrence. He says: "I got up from a sofa at two, and left my cabin. At this moment a ship under full sail showed herself all at once on our path and I had hardly time to jump on the bridge when the Ville Du Havre was already struck right in the side opposite the mainmast. The damage was enormous, being a hole of at least sixteen feet, rendering it certain that the ship could remain very little time afloat. The engines were stopped at once, and the valves were opened. The water rushed in so quickly there was not time to close the door of the bulkhead which separated the engine from the boilers; besides, the bulkhead of the coal bunker having been forced into the engine room, the water poured in that way into the boiler room. I estimate there were not more than twelve minutes between the collision and the sinking of the ship. Capt. Robertson, of the Loch Earn, who says he saw me, says ten minutes, others says fifteen minutes, but there is only two or three minutes in question. I must say that in that short interval the passengers were examples of coolness, calmness and resignation, and at the dreadful time of this lamentable occurrence, when 350 persons were justly alarmed at the thought of certain death at any moment, and their only hope of safety was disappearing, the women were the first to give the example." Captain Surmont's story of the failure to get boats afloat does not differ from that told by the telegraph. The rapid filling of the vessel and falling of the masts were the causes. He also says: "I have the satisfaction since the wreck of learning, by questioning the survivors of the crew, that every one was at his post, that each did his duty, and that all went down with the vessel, and were picked up from the sea. The loss of the unfortunate officers who commanded the watch at the moment of the collision, renders me unable to give the exact account of the occurrence before taking command myself, but I can declare that the Loch Earn, to which I showed my ship's side, and which consequently had nothing to fear from me, struck directly against my vessel, at a risk of smashing herself as well, when by a slight stroke of the helm upward, for it was almost so already, this terrible collision might have been averted."

ZANESVILLE, OHIO.

The Carrie Brooks Detained by High Water—Examination of Public Buildings—The Walford Murder Trial.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., December 19, 1873.

The steamer Carrie Brooks arrived from Pittsburgh last night, but was unable to return this morning on account of the river being too high to lock.

The committee appointed by the city councils to examine the safety of public buildings are now at work in the examination of witnesses.

The Walford murder trial closed to-day. The case will probably be given to the jury to-morrow.

THE VIRGINIUS.

The Vessel on Her Way North—Survivors Delivered Up on the 18th, and Start for New York.

KEY WEST, December 19.—The Virginius left Tortugas at twelve o'clock last night in tow of the United States steamer Ossipee.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, December 18.—Via HAVANA, December 19.—The surviving passengers and crew of the steamship Virginius were delivered to-day to Commander Braine, of the United States steamship Juniata. They were sent on board that vessel, which soon after took her departure for New York.

THE ELECTION.

Official Vote of Mercer County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GREENVILLE, PA., December 19, 1873.

The official vote of Mercer county at the late election, is: For the Constitution, 3,894; against the Constitution, 2,104; majority for the Constitution, 1,790.

Official from Washington County.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., December 19, 1873.

The official returns for this county are as follows: For the Constitution, 4,626; against, 4288; giving a majority of 3,988 in favor.

CASUALTIES.

Coal Miner Killed by Slate-fall.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WEST NEWTON, PA., December 19, 1873.

Robert McMillan, aged about twenty-one years, was killed in a coal bank near this place to-day. Not coming to dinner at the proper time, his brother went in search of him and found him in the pit with his head crushed under a fall of slate.

Interesting Letter of the Late Professor Agassiz.

CLEVELAND, December 19.—The *Leader* will to-morrow publish a letter written by Professor Agassiz shortly before his death, positively denying the statement, so often paraded by Catholics as an argument against the public school system, to the effect that Agassiz had investigated the houses of prostitution in Boston and found a large majority of the inmates were natives of that city, and attributed their own downfall to the impure influences to which they had been subject while pupils of the Boston public schools. The letter says: "The item regarding the causes of the fall of the women of Boston, which you sent me some time ago, is a base invention and slander which I should long ago have exposed did I not shrink from a discussion with the class of people who indulge in such insinuations. Very truly yours,

"LOUIS AGASSIZ."

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Outstanding legal tenders amount to $375,463,218.

The steamers Java, from Liverpool, and California, from Glasgow, have arrived at New York.

Orders have been issued to cease all extra work and resume the usual working hours at the Charlestown navy yard.

Booth needs but two more votes to achieve the California Senatorship.

Car Load of Christmas Organs.

The "Erie Dispatch" 16th inst, says:

ANOTHER CAR LOAD OF BURDETT ORGANS.

At this time the Burdett Organ Company ship a car load of organs for the holidays to their Pittsburgh agents, H. Kleber & Bro., one of the oldest and most favorably known music houses in the country.

In this connection our city may pride itself on the fact that the Burdett Organ Company have kept their factory running without interruption and with their full force of employees ever since it was opened here, and have not learned to spell panic yet.

The most acceptable and useful holiday gift is a fine Burdett organ. Their tone is beautiful whether for sacred or secular music. Call at Kleber's, buy a Corinthian case Burdett, or one of their splendid "Organ Kinds," and your outlay will be richly repaid in solid home comfort.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

December 19, 1873.

Mr. SUMNER presented a petition of a large number of citizens of New York, asking for the general disarmament of the Federal forces and the adoption of the provisions to settle all difficulties by arbitration.

Mr. SUMNER presented a petition from the Washington Civil Rights Convention, asking the passage of a Civil Rights bill. Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ANTHONY, from the Committee on Printing, reported back the bill relative to printing public documents.

Mr. SARGENT said the cost to print the agricultural reports would be one hundred and thirty-eight thousand dollars, and it would cost the Senators and members ninety-two thousand dollars at least to send out all the public documents.

Mr. STEVENSON said the people should know what goes on here. He was in favor of restoring the franking privilege, with some restrictions.

The Senate, by a vote of thirty-two against twenty-seven, agreed to the House resolution to adjourn from to-day to the 5th of January next.

Mr. WRIGHT, of the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment, reported back the House bill in relation to the compensation of Senators, Representatives and Delegates, with amendment, and recommended its passage. He gave notice that he would call up the bill on Monday next, after the morning hour. The morning hour having expired, the Chair announced that the resolution reported by the Committee on Finance was in order, upon which Senator Bogy was entitled to the floor.

Mr. LEWIS hoped the finance resolution would be laid aside, and that the Senate would take up the resolution for adjournment.

Mr. CHANDLER said that Congress had been here three weeks, during which they had increased the price of gold and deranged business, and now wanted to go home. If there was not time to repeal the bankrupt law before the holidays, or pass a new one, he hoped the old one would be rescinded at least.

Mr. BOREMAN opposed the repeal of the bankrupt law, though he favored an amendment thereof. He thought it best to take a holiday recess.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, thought there were public duties which should be performed, but when Senators had made up their minds to go home, he did not see much use in talking about the sovereign people and urging them to stay. Congress had shown a masterly inactivity since it had been here. He hoped the great American Senate had not become childish enough, after having defeated the resolution on Wednesday by ten votes, to take it up and pass it now.

Mr. FERRY, of Connecticut, Tipton and Windom favored the passage of the bill. The Senate then by a vote of 33 yeas to 29 nays, proceeded to the consideration of the joint resolution to adjourn.

Mr. SCOTT hoped there would be no recess.

Mr. INGALLS moved to amend the House resolution by substituting Monday, December 22nd, for Friday, the 19th.

Mr. THURMAN inquired if the Senator from Kansas contemplated by that amendment to allow time for the repeal or amendment of the bankrupt law.

Mr. INGALLS replied in the affirmative.

Mr. THURMAN had believed it would be possible for the Judiciary Committee to report a bill to-day, but, after conversation with a large number of the members of the House, he had come to the conclusion that it was idle to talk about amending the bankrupt law before the holidays.

Mr. BOUTWELL said he had voted uniformly against a recess, and had done so in hopes that the Senate might amend the bankrupt law before the holidays, but he entertained that hope no longer. He was opposed to the repeal of the law, and said its repeal would be followed by evils and disasters in financial circles of a serious nature. He had been persuaded that a large number of respectable business men would petition against its repeal if they should have time to do so. He would therefore vote for the resolution to take a recess.

The amendment of Mr. INGALLS was rejected. The resolution as passed by the House was then concurred in yeas 32, nays 27.

Mr. MORTON submitted a resolution that the Committee on Judiciary be instructed that in any bill they may report in regard to the bankrupt law, whether for its repeal or amendments thereto, such repeal or such amendments as relate to acts, causes, or conditions by virtue of which any person may be thrown into involuntary bankruptcy, shall be made retroactive and date back and take effect at a period not later than the first of December, 1873. He said he desired to give notice that the Senate would act upon this matter.

Mr. SUMNER objected to debate and the resolution went over.

The amendments reported from the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment to the House Salary bill are in the nature of a substitute for it, as follows: "Be it enacted, &c., That so much of the act of March 3d, 1873, as provides for the increase of the compensation of Members of Congress and the several officers and employees, either of the House of Congress or both, be and the same is hereby repealed, and the salaries and compensation of all said persons shall be as fixed by the laws in force at the time of the passage of said act. Section 2. That the compensation of the several heads of departments shall be each $8,000 per annum. Section 3. That the Secretary of the Treasury be required to cover into the treasury all sums that may remain undrawn or which have been received as increased compensation under the provisions of the said act, approved March 3, 1873, and which shall have or may come into his possession by the return thereof.

The Senate then went into Executive session, and at 3:45 the doors were reopened and the Senate adjourned until January 5th, 1874.

HOUSE.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, from the Judiciary Committee, offered a resolution authorizing that committee to send a sub-committee of two to New Orleans to take testimony in the matter of the impeachment of Judge Durrell, with power to send for persons and papers. He said that among the charges against Judge Durrell there was a charge of misapplication of funds, and misproceeding in bankruptcy. Adopted.

Mr. BUTLER called up his supplementary Civil Rights bill, and proposed to limit debate to two hours.

Mr. BECK appealed for a longer time, and gave notice that although the Democratic side did not propose to interfere with dilatory motions if fair discussions were allowed, it would do so in the contrary event.

Mr. STEPHENS made a similar appeal, stating that he desired to address the House.

Mr. BUTLER remarked that the Amnesty bill and the Civil Rights bill were linked together in the minds of Republican members.

It was agreed that discussion should go on all day in fifteen minute speeches, and on the next day the second day, reassembling; the previous question to be considered operative at four o'clock of the second day.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, opened the debate on the supplementary Civil Rights bill. He said that the bill gave no right which every man did not now possess, except where there was hostile State legislation. The bill simply proposes to give to any one, from whom this right was taken, a means of overriding that hostile State legislation, and to punish the man who takes that right away from him. That was the whole of it, and who could argue against that? He knew that its opponents would say that it was an invasion of State rights, and that States should be left to manage their own internal affairs in their own way. He was content to uphold State rights, but not to uphold State wrongs; and no State had a right to discriminate against any class of citizens, provided they offended against no laws.

Mr. BROMBERG asked Mr. Butler whether there was any evidence before the committee as to the necessity for this law; and also why those Southern State Legislatures which had so long been controlled by the Republican party, had not passed all the necessary laws.

Mr. BUTLER replied that colored witnesses on their way to testify before the Reconstruction Committee, had been forced into dirty, miserable, smoking cars. Republican State Legislatures had not acted in the matter, because they were waiting for Congress to do so.

Mr. COX proposed to amend the bill so as to make colored persons liable to the penalties of the bill.

Mr. BUTLER said that that amendment was not necessary: the law applied to every natural person, and a negro was a very natural person.

Mr. BECK opposed the bill. He declared that no man on his side of the House wanted to see the negro oppressed or deprived of any right, but they objected to this bill because Congress was usurping authority over matters that belonged exclusively to the States. They saw approaching consolidation fast enough: they were drifting into centralism so steadily that before long the States would bear the same relation to the general Government as counties now had to States. He objected to this bill because such coercive legislation as would force colored children into the same schools with white children would not operate to the benefit of the colored people, but to their positive injury. It might not affect gentlemen who could send their children to private schools, but it would drive away industrious poor people who objected to their children associating with colored children, and would injure the States and break up the public school system there.

Mr. RAINEY advocated the bill. They were not seeking social equality. He and the men of his race preferred to choose their own. They wanted this law enacted so that they should be recognized as other men. Why could not negro Members of Congress enjoy the same rights and immunities in hotels as white Members of Congress? Why should they not have the right to go into restaurants without being insulted? Members on the other side from Southern States had an antipathy against the colored race because it had shown its manhood and valor in defense of the flag.

Mr. COBURN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a resolution requesting the President to convene a court of inquiry, to consist of not less than five officers of the army, whose duty it shall be to investigate all the charges against Brigadier General O. O. Howard, contained in a communication of the Secretary of War, dated December 5th.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, suggested that half the court should consist of officers who had served with colored troops; for he knew that there was great prejudice among army officers against General Howard, because he had been at the head of the Freedmen's Bureau, which they thought was not congenial with the dignity of army officers.

Mr. COBURN said that it was within the discretion of the President to select men without prejudice and he could see no danger of entrusting it to the President. He sent to the clerk's desk and had read a letter from General Howard, courting inquiry and waiving all technical objections. After discussion, the whole matter was recommitted.

Mr. CESSNA presented a petition signed by 201 citizens of Somerset county, Pa., relative to the claim of George Chorpenning against the Government, urging its reopening and re-examination. He proceeded to state the history of the case and to defend his own connection with it, and the action of Postmaster General Creswell.

Mr. DAWES commented on the unusual course pursued by Mr. Cessna, and suggested that nobody who had confidence in his case was apt to argue it beforehand. The unfavorable action of Congress on the Chorpenning claim had been taken on the unanimous report of the committee of the House, before which everything and person having an interest in the case had an opportunity to appear. The action of the House was unanimous and so was the action of the Senate committee, and of the Senate. Nevertheless, he would not characterize the case nor prejudice it, if it was to be re-examined.

Mr. CESSNA defended his course and said that he had adopted it lest if he had filed the petition in the usual way he would have been charged with having done it in a sleek, quiet, sly way. His constituent, Chorpenning, had never been present before the committee which inquired into his case, either in person or by attorney, although he had asked the gentleman from Massachusetts (Dawes) to give the client a hearing.

Mr. DAWES replied that he had told Mr. Cessna that the committee would be glad to hear him and his constituents whenever, and as long as they pleased, while no attorney for Chorpenning appeared in the committee room while the examination was going on. The attorney contented himself with personal interviews with members of the committee, to explain, to argue and to persuade.

Mr. BECK—The gentleman (Cessna) sat here when the report was made and never opened his mouth, and it ill becomes him now to come here and renew the subject.

Mr. DAWES—I hope the paper will be referred to some committee and let us have another report.

The SPEAKER (to Cessna)—What committee does the gentleman desire to have the papers referred to?

Mr. CESSNA—I have not yet presented the papers. I will withhold them for the present.

Mr. DAWES (sarcastically)—This is a personal explanation. [Laughter.]

The House then adjourned to January 5th, 1874.

CAMBRIDGE, OHIO.

End of the Miners' Strike—Reduction of Wages Accepted—Resumption of Travel on the Marietta, Pittsburgh and Cleveland Railroad.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CAMBRIDGE, O., December 19, 1873.

The strike made by the miners at the several coal mines near this place has ended, and the miners have gone to work at a reduction of wages offered by the employers. The price now paid is two and a half cents per bushel.

Through trains are now running on the Marietta, Pittsburgh and Cleveland Railroad.

FORT WAYNE.

Sudden Death of a Physician—Festival for Relief of the Poor.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, December 19, 1873.

Dr. F. C. Bacon, of Huntertown, who left home yesterday in good health, to come to this city on business, had a stroke of paralysis, from which he died very suddenly.

The festival which has been in progress several nights, for the benefit of the poor of the city, is receiving heavy donations.

CRIMES.

Renovo Rioters Go Free.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOCK HAVEN, PA., December 19, 1873.

The jury rendered a verdict of "not guilty" in the case of Bennett, for murder, late last evening. A *nolle prosequi* was entered to-day, in the cases of Clark and Sheefar, who were discharged.

John Clark, the boy who robbed Jesse Beam's saloon of one hundred and seventy-five dollars, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the Western Penitentiary for eighteen months. The court has adjourned.

A Stranger Takes $6,750 from the Banks in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., December 19, 1873.

A stranger, named D. J. Crane, came to this place, a few weeks since, and engaged himself in buying and selling wheat, dealing with prominent firms to enable himself to become familiar with their signatures. Yesterday he succeeded in disposing of forged checks and obtaining money from the following banks in this city: National, $2,500; First National, $2,100; Savings Bank, $2,150. He has made his escape. A reward is offered for his arrest. There was no clue up to a late hour this evening of his whereabouts.

Conviction of a Murderer.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

NEW LISBON, O., December 19, 1873.

The trial of Urban Porter, for the murder of his two little children, near Columbiana, O., in December last, was commenced at this place December 8th. The case was given to the jury last evening at 5 o'clock. They returned in six hours with a verdict of murder in the second degree. To-day Porter was sentenced to the penitentiary for life. His plea was emotional insanity.

Murder and Lynching in Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, December 19.—A special to the *Democrat*, from Sedalia, says information was received there to-day, that a farmer living near Cambridge, Saline county, sold a lot of hogs in that former's vicinity, receiving therefor about one thousand dollars, and while returning he was overtaken on the road by five men, headed by a desperado named Tom Stanton, who shot and killed him, and then robbed the body of the money. Shortly after the tragedy, a gentleman residing near by discovered the body lying in the road, and hearing angry altercations in an adjoining thicket, comprehended the situation, and at once quietly raised a number of neighbors, who captured three of the murderers and hung them to a tree, and then started in pursuit of the other two, but at last accounts it was not known whether they had been captured.

THE WEATHER.

Midnight Bulletin.

DECEMBER 19, 1873—10:48 P. M.

PLACE OF OBSERVATION.	Ther.	Wind.	Weather.
Cairo, Ills	35	N. W.	Fair.
Cincinnati, O	36	W.	Cloudy.
Davenport, Iowa	18	N. W.	Clear.
Keokuk, Iowa	25	N. W.	Clear.
Leavenworth, Ks	26	N.	Clear.
Louisville, Ky	34	W.	Threaten'g
Memphis, Tenn	45	N. W.	Clear.
Nashville, Tenn	38	Calm.	Clear.
New Orleans, La	54	N.	Clear.
Omaha, Neb	10	N. W.	Clear.
Pittsburgh, Pa	35	N. W.	Cloudy.
St. Louis, Mo	29	W.	Clear.
Vicksburg, Miss	48	E.	Clear.
Shreveport, La	46	Calm.	Clear.
Indianapolis	31	W.	Threaten'g
Ft. Gibson	31	Calm.	Clear.
Pike's Peak	—4	W.	Clear.
LaCrosse	15	N.	Clear.
St. Paul	3	N. W.	Clear.

7 P. M. observation.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 19, 1873.

ONE BY ONE THE RASCALS FALL.

The jury in the case of Henry A. Genet, on trial for fraudulent practices in connection with building the Harlem court house, to-day, rendered a verdict of "guilty." Sentence was granted until Monday, to give time to prepare a bill of exceptions. A motion to admit to bail was refused, and Genet remains in the custody of the sheriff.

Havana Newspaper Office Robbed.

HAVANA, December 19.—The office of the *Diaor de La Marina* was entered by burglars early this morning. The administrator and his nephew were tied and gagged and their lives threatened. The burglars, after securing about twenty-eight thousand dollars, decamped.

Weekly Sales of Steinway's—Bulletin No. 72.

The following is the weekly sales of the celebrated Steinway Piano, as reported by Messrs. Kleber & Bro.:

Mrs. R. Robinson, bought a Steinway Square Grand Piano.

A. Fliman, Esq., bought a Steinway Square Piano.

Mr. Oliphant, bought a Steinway Square Grand Piano.

Mr. Rowan, Esq., Freeport, bought a Steinway Square Piano.

Joseph Wallace, Esq., bought a Steinway Square Piano.

W. Mewherter, Esq., bought a Steinway Square Piano.

Mrs. M. Mitchell bought a Steinway Square Piano.

Simon Burd, Esq., bought a Steinway Double-round Piano.

Miss Mary Wagner, Phillipsburg, bought a Steinway Double-round Piano, etc.

No family having daughters to educate should be without its Steinway Piano. A thorough musical education is indispensible whether for fitting the young lady for society or as a means to earn, if called upon, a genteel and ample livelihood. A Steinway Piano is not a luxury, but a necessity. For a reasonable sum you can purchase a fine Steinway on very accommodating terms at H. Kleber & Bros., the exclusive agents.

Try Them.

The new Ginger Fruit Cakes, from the mammoth establishment of S. S. Marvin & Co., are superb. They are soft and delicate, and of delicious flavor. Ask your grocer for a supply, and give your family a treat.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Continued Opposition to Mr. Williams.

HIS PROSPECTS CONSIDERED UNFAVORABLE.

Revival of the Chorpenning Claim.

MR. KELLEY'S CURRENCY BILL

Congress Adjourns Over the Holidays

The Durrell Investigation.

Senate Transportation Committee.

The Everlasting Salary Bill.

Leaves of Absence in Civil Service.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 19, 1873.

The Opposition to Mr. Williams.

It is learned to-night, that the discussions which have taken place in Executive session at different times, respecting the nomination of Williams for Chief Justice, have been merely incidental; that his case is still before the Judiciary Committee, and that they are making a searching investigation of the charges which have been preferred against him, both from Iowa, led by Senator Wright, and from Oregon, led by ex-Senator Nesmith, now a Representative. The former has reference to mails, and the latter to legal fees. The allegations are earnestly pressed by the influential parties named, and the impression made on the minds of the committee seems to be very unfavorable to the prospects of Mr. Williams.

The Chorpenning Claim.

The revival of the Chorpenning claim by Mr. Cessna, was a surprise. He attempted to vindicate the claim and complained of the unfairness of the report of the committee who were the means of striking the claim, which was on the eve of passing, out of the appropriation bill. This was done after an investigation of the case. The speech of Mr. Cessna aroused Mr. Dawes and Mr. Beck, both of whom roughly handled the subject of their indignation.

Relief of Assistant Treasurer Hillhouse.

The Committee on Ways and Means, at their meeting to-day, considered various propositions but took no definite action on anything. Among the bills that may be acted on for the relief of Assistant Treasurer Hillhouse.

Kelley's Currency Bill.

Mr. Kelley's currency bill was postponed till after the holidays. It does not appear to meet with much favor.

Civil Rights Bill

was called up this morning, but, to allow ample time for debate, it will not be acted on till the second day after the recess.

The Holiday Recess.

The Senate to-day, after a protracted debate, agreed to adjourn over for the holidays. This cuts off considerable buncombe oratory contemplated in the House.

The Durrell Investigation.

It is understood that Messrs. Wilson, of Indiana, and White, of Alabama, will be named as the special committee to visit New Orleans during the recess to look into the case of the impeached Judge Durrell. It is all settled that he has acted dishonestly in a bankrupt case. Witnesses are so numerous that it is deemed less expensive to send the sub-committee than to bring the bills here.

The Senate Transportation Committee

will start on Monday, and spend two days in Atlanta, one in Mobile, four in New Orleans, and if they have time, will visit Galveston. They will return here by the time Congress renews business. Their report will not be out for two months.

The Salary Bill.

The committee have reported a substitute for the House salary bill, in which all salaries are reduced, save those of the Executive and Supreme Court. Senator Wright will call it up when Congress reassembles, and will press it to a conclusion.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 19, 1873.

IMPORTANT TO CIVIL OFFICERS.

Secretary Delano warns territorial and other officers that absence from their posts without special permission will be considered as a resignation, and says that any officer asking leave of absence will accompany his request with a statement of the cause for making such request.

CONTEMPLATED COALITION FOR CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

A call is being numerously signed by Members of Congress, headed by Representative McNulta, of Illinois, and Representative Harris, of Virginia, looking to a union of members of the Northwest and South for the purpose of uniting those sections on the question of cheap transportation from the West to the Atlantic seaboard. A meeting will be held in the hall of the House of Representatives on the first Saturday after recess.

ONE OF THE RING TO TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE.

It is reported that E. A. Woodward, county auditor under the Ring, is now in the city, and has agreed to turn State's evidence on the promise of immunity from prison. His whereabouts cannot be ascertained, but it is confidently stated that he will appear on Monday against ex-Mayor Hall.

STATE NEWS.

The Altoona *Tribune* says: On Saturday last, as Mrs. John Baker, who lives near Bell's Mills, was passing through her husband's barn, a horse reached across the manger and caught her by the nose, and forgot to let go till he had chawed off the principal part of that useful member. The severed portion was picked up, and, by the aid of court-plaster, reunited to the place where it originally belonged, and at last accounts the two parts were growing together nicely.

There is in this county, says the Hollidaysburg *Standard*, an old gentleman, James Newberry by name, who is well known to many of our citizens, whose life history is certainly remarkable. He was born in 1793, and is consequently in the seventy-eighth year of his age. He was engaged in the war of 1812, first as a wagoner, and afterwards as a private soldier. From the closing of that war until the breaking out of the Mexican war he pursued the vocations incident to a peaceful life. To Mexico he went with the famous Highlanders, and there he did good service. Years rolled away, until finally the great rebellion burst upon the country. Newberry was there—first in the three months' service, and afterward as a member of the historic and gallant Eighty-fourth. He is yet a hale and hearty man, and we have seen many a man of fifty who looks older than he. As a temperance man he is unique, and we have no doubt will manage to survive for a score of years to come.

A man by the name of John B. Jones, a farmer, living in Canton township, Bradford county, committed suicide on Tuesday by shooting himself in the mouth. He was dead when found. He had been sick for some time with heart disease.

The puddlers in McCormick's and Bailey's rolling mills, in Harrisburg, have struck against a reduction of wages to five dollars per ton.

Mary Smith, thirteen years old, was outraged in most brutal manner near Marietta, Lancaster county, on the 15th inst., by two negroes. The fiends escaped arrest.

The stockholders of the Berks county Railroad have ratified the lease of that part of their road from Penn street to Poplar neck to the Wilmington and Reading Company.

An old man named Henry Cook, of Dunmore, Luzerne county, walked off a bridge at that place on Saturday night, and was drowned.

The Scranton *Republican* says: "Michael Roach and Michael Melvin, two puddlers in the lower mill of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, were at work at opposite furnaces in the mills last evening. They were drawing their last heat about half-past seven o'clock, when simultaneously they were both shot, by some persons on the outside of the mill. The ball took effect in Roach's head and it is thought the wound will prove fatal. Melvin was shot under the left arm in the back. His wounds are not considered dangerous. The reports of the shots were not heard by any one in the mill, or if they were it was supposed to be the report made by the working of the iron, which sounds like that made by a revolver or gun. This first intimation any person in the mill had, that they were shot, was seeing them rolling over the ground and the blood flowing from the wounds. They have not the slightest suspicion who the would-be murderers are."

The Pottsville *Standard* says: After three years and a half of hard labor, the Big Lick Tunnel which cuts through the Big Lick mountain, leading from Williams valley to Bear valley, was last Tuesday evening finished. The tunnel was driven by the Summit Railroad Company, a branch of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company, for the purpose of tapping the Bear valley coal fields. It is 3,960 feet long and wide enough for two trains to pass through. One thousand and forty feet from the southern portal of the tunnel lies the valley vein of coal, from which was shipped during the year ending November 30, by the Williamstown Colliery Company, 301,600 tons of coal. The tunnel will be used principally for the transportation of coal. During the construction of it two men were killed.

Daniel Sarley, an elderly and respected farmer of Penn township, Huntingdon county, went out to plow, on Thursday of last week, and not returning in the evening, search was made for him, when he was found lying dead in a furrow, his team standing near by.

Allentown will close her high school if money is not raised for current expenses.

Major Washington Richards, a prominent citizen of Reading, died on Monday.

The Allentown *News* says: Widow Simon Reiss, a resident of Lower Saucon, about two miles from Hellertown, will be one hundred and one years old on the first of January, 1874. Her bodily health is such that in good weather she is able to walk to Hellertown and Bethlehem, and her mental faculties continue to be quite bright. She has relatives in this city, some of whom expect to pay her a visit on her next birthday, when it is arranged that others of her friends will meet to gratify and surprise the old lady. Her nerves are strong enough to bear the violin, and it is expected, should her health continue as now, that some old-time jigs will be reproduced, in which the old lady may feel like taking a part.

Pithole has but two pumping wells at present. In 1865 it had over one thousand.

In the case of White vs. the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company—change of venue from Crawford county to the Court of Common Pleas of Venango county—the jury returned a verdict of $3,770 for the plaintiff. The plaintiff's wife was killed by the cars of defendant, and this suit was brought for damages. The testimony showed carelessness on both sides.

A brother of William Short, United States Consul at Wales, was killed by the cars near Irvington on Saturday.

Augustus Robb, a prominent citizen of Johnstown, drowned himself on Tuesday night, while laboring under a fit of temporary insanity.

Miss Eliza Goodhart died suddenly, in Lebanon, a few days ago, in a fit of strangulation, produced by a severe fit of coughing.

Lebanon has arisen to the dignity of having a female ghost of its own.

A little child was drowned in a swamp at Kittanning, on Monday.

On December 3d, Mr. David Zilliox was so badly injured, by a saw log rolling on him, that he died on the following day. The deceased was twenty-three years of age, and had just returned from the West to Brady township, Clearfield county.

Many English miners have left the works in Clearfield county, to return to England.

The Doylestown *Intelligencer* says the fine appearance of the growing wheat fields in Bucks and the adjoining counties is the subject of general remark. Not one field in a hundred looks badly, and in most of them the surface is covered with a thick growth of young plants. The timothy also has "taken" well, and on the whole, these crops never entered the winter with better prospects. The pasture fields in many places still afford a good deal of grass for stock, and farmers are thus enabled to save their hay and other provender for more severe weather.

A disease has broken out among the horses of Delaware county, which affects their limbs, causing severe lameness. The disease is entirely new, and baffles the skill of the veterinary surgeons.

John W. McKinney, well known in Altoona as a printer and publisher, died in Harrisburg on Monday night.

A new Democratic paper, to be called the *Perkiomen Valley Press*, will be published at Pennsburg about the first of January, by A. Kneule.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The Official Vote in Allegheny County—Vote for, 18,002; Against, 1,835—Majority for, 16,167.

The Return Judges of Elections met in one of the jury rooms yesterday, for the purpose of receiving and making an official count of the votes cast for and against the new Constitution at the election on Tuesday. Mr. J. C. Porter was chosen President of the Board, and Messrs. John A. Sargent, J. G. McFarland and James James Alexander, Clerks. The official figures thus far received are given below. From the figures given, it appears that the majority in the county for the instrument is 16,167. There are two districts yet to be heard from—the second precinct of the Third ward, Allegheny, and the first precinct of South Versailles. The vote of the Seventh ward, Pittsburgh, was thrown out, as illegal. Following are the figures:

DISTRICTS.	For	Ag'st.	M(j)	M(n) For.	M(n) Ag'st.
PITTSBURGH.					
1st Ward	977	63	217		
2d Ward	338	59	279		
3d Ward	196	31	165		
4th Ward	329	45	204		
5th Ward	229	22	207		
6th Ward	482	46	406		
7th Ward	Thrown out.				
8th Ward	459	25	425		
9th Ward	260	15	245		
10th Ward	206	97	109		
11th Ward	567	16	551		
12th Ward, 1st p	168	36	132		
12th Ward, 2d p	178	11	167		
12th Ward, 3d p	203	11	192		
13th Ward, 2d p	50	5	45		
14th Ward	357	97	260		
15th Ward	308	32	276		
16th Ward, 1st p	138	12	126		
16th Ward, 2d p	153	9	144		
17th Ward, 1st p	376	28	348		
17th Ward, 2d p	294	22	272		
18th Ward	9	3	6		
19th Ward	209	13	196		
20th Ward	197	12	185		
21st Ward, 1st p

The Daily Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1873.

With twenty-five counties yet to hear from, the majority for the new Constitution is not quite 125,000.

Some of the leading Louisiana politicians are endeavoring to have the State capital retransferred to Baton Rouge, on the ground that New Orleans is so noisy and unhealthy.

The Chicago *Post* says that all the indications point to the organization of the farmers of Illinois as a separate political party. If so similar organizations will follow in all the Western States.

In view of the heavy taxation already borne by the people, the County Commissioners have decided to postpone the erection of the new court house at Chicago until next fall. The tax-payers are not expected to remonstrate against this decision.

One of the first fruits of the investigation into the detective police system of Cincinnati, is the arrest of a member of the corps, and the recovery of about $700 worth of stolen goods in his house. The detective arrested had been on the force for twenty years.

Spain has expended, according to the estimate of the Havana *Diario*, $200,000,000 and lost between 60,000 and 75,000 troops by bullet and disease, in her five years' fight with the Cuban insurgents. The progress made toward the subjugation of the rebellious subjects has not been particularly encouraging, so far.

There's nothing like being in time. The retail dealers in New York have advanced the prices of tea and coffee four to six cents a pound, in the expectation that Congress will reimpose the duty upon them. Unfortunately, the poorer class of purchasers have no remedy, but must submit to this extortion.

The debate on the salary bill has been fatal to several gentlemen who were too eager to take a prominent part in it. Wilson, of Indiana, Cox, and now Hale, of New York, ventured into the arena as champion matadors, and have been successively unhorsed. Men with faulty records must not set up for models.

Now that the Virginius has been surrendered, the occupation of the New York sensationalists is gone. They did an immense amount of gasconading, for awhile, and furnished Frank Leslie with numerous subjects for pictures of events that never occurred; but dull times have settled down upon the metropolis once more, and they will be quiet until they can manufacture some new sensation.

We try hard to keep up with the times, but occasionally we find some one ahead of us. Here, for instance, is Mayor Stokeley, of Philadelphia, when he was giving the newspaper reporters the correct returns of the vote up to one o'clock on Tuesday last, in place of an incorrect one they had in their hands, telling them he didn't want them to "put him in a hole." The reporters seemed to understand it, however.

About the most original and ingenious of the many plans proposed in Congress, having for their object a resumption of specie payments, is that of Mr. Pierce, of Boston. He proposes to issue Treasury notes, payable in gold, which shall be disposed of at public auction at the rate of $1,000,000 per month until they cease to bring a premium over the old notes.

The gamblers of Gotham, fearing that their business cannot be peacefully pursued there for some time to come, are preparing for professional tours through the South and West. It is not impossible that a number of them may make Pittsburgh a temporary operating ground; and our authorities should be ready to meet them at the city limits and hasten their departure to some other field.

The usefulness of the Weather Signal Service is to be extended by the addition of a system of coast signals, designed to warn vessels within sight of land of the approach of storms, and enable them to seek a port or gain a sufficient offing, as may be best. The new service will extend from Cape Hatteras to the northern line of Maine, and the operators will co-operate with the officers of the Life-Saving and Wrecking Service.

David A. Gage, Democrat, was elected City Treasurer of Chicago in 1869, with a whirl and a hurrah as the "Reform" candidate, defeating Wentworth, the Republican nominee, and was re-elected in 1871 on the same basis. He was to "reform" the city treasury by securing the city four per cent. on its current balances, and the result of his four years' effort at "reform" is that the Democratic Gage is a defaulter in the princely sum of half a million. "Comment is unnecessary."

Chicago has among her approximate officers a Boiler Inspector, and the boiler-makers have sent to the Mayor a protest against the appointment of any inexperienced and unskilled man to the position. According to the *Post*, a large proportion of the boilers in use in the western metropolis are little better than powder magazines, hence the owners are anxious for the selection of an unskilled inspector, from whom they can readily conceal the fact.

One of the most notable schemes submitted to the farmers' State convention at Decatur, Ill., is that by Professor Emerson, of Virginia. It contemplates developing the doctrine of State control to its logical fullness. A Board of Transportation is to be constituted, having its office in the State capital. There all the accounts of all the railroads in the State are to be kept under the immediate supervision of the board. This board is to have absolute control over the roads in all respects, not only as to charges for transportation, but also as to the declaring of dividends, and even the movement of trains. Anything more paternal than this would be difficult to conceive.

The Conservatives of Virginia have trapped themselves with the provisions of one of their own laws. Fearing the Republicans would carry the State at the late election, they previously enacted a law electing the "judiciary" of the State for six years, and postponing the meeting of the Legislature until January. As it is the duty of the Legislature to officially declare the election of State officers, and as the term of office of those officers expires on the 31st of December, it is evident that between the going out of the present incumbents and the swearing in of the officers elect, an interregnum will occur during which the State will be without a Governor or an Executive head of any kind.

SENATOR SUMNER AND SPAIN.

If Mr. Senator Sumner reads the newspapers he must, at least occasionally, be forcibly impressed with the vanity of popular reputation. Whatever may be the Senator's faults and defects, and whatever else he is not, he is undoubtedly a scholar of extensive general information, while in certain departments of knowledge his acquirements are both exact and profound. This is a mild and moderate version of estimates of his intellectual claims expressed repeatedly by some of the most eminent scholars and publicists, European and American. Nor is such an estimate likely to have been founded on insufficient evidence. Mr. Sumner's works are many and voluminous; his mere speeches and orations, all carefully prepared, fill several volumes. A few years ago the Edinburgh *Philosophical Journal*, referring only to some of his speeches, said, "We confess that, for depth and accuracy of thought, for fulness of historical information, and for a species of gigantic morality which treads all sophistry under foot and rushes at once to the right conclusion, we know not a single orator, speaking the English tongue, who ranks as his superior." When a mere youth, having for four or five years lectured on law in Harvard University, Mr. Sumner declined appointment as the successor of Judge Story in the Cambridge Law School, and his legal discussions have long been quoted with respect in foreign countries. But history and politics have been his specialities, and in them, whatever may now and then be thought about his judgments, his information is unquestionably both accurate and thorough.

And yet, if Mr. Sumner ever reads certain newspapers, some of them papers of considerable circulation and influence, he finds himself sometimes sneered at, sometimes gravely lectured as an ignoramus, or at any rate as a man destitute of the most common-place historical and geographical information. The effect of such treatment must be, one fancies, to remind him how very limited after all is the fame of his erudition. Several times within the last three or four years, the great Senator has laid himself open to the correction light, or severe, of these modest pedagogues, but none of the opportunites offered has been so abundantly or instructively used as Mr. Sumner's appeal for American sympathy in behalf of the Spanish republic. "O what ignorance!" cry the pedagogues; "what blindness to the *true* condition of things in Spain!" "Sumner's republic," says the latest of these critics, writing in the Chicago *Tribune*, "Sumner's republic is a myth, a phantasy, the Spanish government resembles a republic about as much as a hawk resembles a handsaw." Then the pedagogue grows positively exultant in the consciousness of his own superior knowledge and discernment, and suggests as probable suppositions that Sumner regards the present French government as a republic, and that he calls Marshal MacMahon "the President of the French republic, whom he would like to embrace as the chief of a sister republic." After this witty remark, the pedagogue proceeds to impart some quite recondite and instructive information concerning both Spain and France, such as that the government of each is a centralized despotism in which the people have no voice.

Such carping is absurd enough and would be comical, if it were not pitiable. The critic is naturally an American in Paris where he has apparently been long enough to imbibe the contempt for the masses and the despair of their future which form a part of the prevalent political creed in certain European circles. Both the contempt and the despair are lessons assiduously and successfully taught in all respectable schools and universities of the continent, and they are lessons most likely destined for some time yet to ensure their own verification. But this is digression. Doubtless Senator Sumner, not only deeply conversant with Spanish history but constantly familiar with living Spain through its own journals, knew exactly the condition of Spanish affairs, the character and prospects of the Castelar government included, when he raised his voice against any unfraternal act towards Spain on the part of the Washington cabinet. But the American Senator, instead of being a smatterer in politics and a cynic in ethics, is a thorough student of the philosophy of history, who believes in human progress, especially in connection with liberal principles. He remembered that Spain, in the absence of any eligible King to rule it, was literally flung into the hands of the men who call themselves Republicans, and who, at least many of them, are undeniably true lovers of their country as well as of free institutions. They have had terrible difficulties to contend with, and have sometimes seemed overwhelmed, but while such men as Castelar and his friends continue to lead, in any position whatever or under whatever nominal political form, there is at least some ground for hope that the country may finally attain order and peace without a restoration of the hereditary Absolutism which maintains ignorance and superstition as the foundations and guaranties of its own existence. To the man who knows anything of history there is hope for the future of Spain even in what has been already achieved, and nobody who knows what Spanish Bourbonism has been and is, can hesitate between it and any other regular government which at present seems possible. It was, therefore, wise as well as noble in the American Senator to protest against any hasty or needless action at Washington, which might embarrass or disturb a political development which promises good to Spain and the world, and which in any event can hardly fail to result soon or later in the advancement of the cause of Liberal government.

THE MOTIVES OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The new Constitution having been adopted, our fight with it is over; but our party friends in other States having been led into taking such an erroneous view of the opposition to it, we are impelled to put in, here, a final word of explanation, before taking leave of the subject altogether.

The idea imbibed by the lookers on in other States seems to have been that the great object of the new Constitution was to prevent corruption in legislation, and that the opposition to it was confined to those who were interested in continuing legislative abuses. This false idea was held out in an address issued on the eve of the election by a committee of the members of the Constitutional Convention: but it was totally devoid of truth, and no one knew that fact better than the men who issued that address.

The opposition to the Constitution did not grow out of, nor was it directed against, the Article on Legislation. There were some exceptions taken to a few of its details, but, as a whole, that Article met with general approval, and if it had been submitted separately, as it should have been, it would have been adopted almost unanimously. Here and there among the tens of thousands who voted against the Constitution, as a whole, there may have been a few interested parties who would have voted against the Article on Legislation; but they were few and far between. The hostility to the Constitution grew out of its other provisions, and had no reference whatever to the efforts of the Convention to remedy the evils which had grown up around our system of special legislation.

For ourselves, we have always been warmly opposed to special legislation, and earnestly desirous to have a stop put to its corrupting influences. The Republican party of Pennsylvania was the first to take open and decided ground on this question. In the Republican State Convention held in 1871, the platform which the editor of this paper had the honor to present for its consideration and adoption, started off with this declaration:

"The Republicans of Pennsylvania assembled in Convention declare first, We deem an act of the Legislature the immediate passage of an act calling a State Convention to revise and amend the Constitution for the purpose, among other things, of prohibiting and prohibiting special legislation."

The Republican State Convention of 1872 followed this up by the following similar declaration:

"That we congratulate the people of Pennsylvania on the final accomplishment of the call for a Convention to revise and amend the Constitution of the State, and we earnestly urge upon our friends to see that delegates are elected in their respective districts committed to the policy of incorporating in that instrument a clear and decisive prohibition of special legislation."

In 1873, after the Constitutional Convention had assembled, the Republican State Convention repeated the former utterances on this subject, and, fearful that the object of preventing special legislation might not be attained unless an article on that subject were submitted for a separate vote of the people, added a demand that whatever else the Constitutional Convention might do, or fail to do, the question of a reform in legislation should be submitted to a separate vote of the people. That resolution read thus:

"That while earnestly in favor of constitutional reform, and of such a revision of our State Constitution as will make it an effective instrument in punishing the corrupt abuses that have grown up under our present system, we demand emphatically and especially that whatever is done or left undone, the main purpose for which the Constitutional Convention was called, the absolute prevention of special legislation, shall be so placed before the people as to secure their separate and decisive expression thereon."

We cite these repeated resolutions for the double purpose of showing not only where the Republican party of the State stood on that question, but where we ourselves stood, personally, each of these resolutions having been drafted by the writer of this article. They show conclusively, that we (in common with our party) have consistently and steadily occupied the position of hostility to abuses and corruptness in legislation, and that the chief purpose of the Constitutional Convention was held to be to put an end to those abuses. To *that* part of the new Constitution neither we nor any one else has taken exception, saving some minor details thereof; and if the Constitutional Convention had confined itself to that issue, there would have been no opposition to its work.

It suited the purposes of the demagogues who thrust themselves into the lead of the supporters of the new Constitution to represent that the opposition to it grew out of hostility to the Article on Legislation, and was confined to those who made a trade of politics and had profited hitherto by the corruptions at Harrisburg; but nothing could be further from the truth. The Article on Legislation on the contrary, met with general approval; and the opposition to the Constitution grew mainly out of other and very different considerations. These were—

First—The refusal of the Convention to submit the Legislative and Judiciary articles to a separate vote. This many people felt to be their right, and they naturally resisted the attempt to deprive them of it.

Second—The clause requiring the ballot to be numbered.

Third—The grossly unfair and vicious basis of representation adopted in it and by which the State is outrageously gerrymandered for the benefit of the Democratic party.

Fourth—The incorporation in it of the anti-republican schemes of minority representation and cumulative voting.

These were held to be errors of a fundamental nature; and the refusal of the Convention to give the people the opportunity, which belonged to them, of voting separately on the Legislative article, left them no alternative but to vote against the whole. That was their judgment in the premises, which they were fairly entitled to exercise; and it is the grossest wrong to them, personally, to represent them as the friends of corruption in legislation, because they felt impelled to vote against an instrument that was, in so many other respects, obnoxious to them.

We append a table, to illustrate what we have said, which contains the names of prominent citizens of the State who openly opposed the new Constitution:

Hon. John Scott,	Hon. James Boyd,
Hon. Benj. H. Brewster,	Hon. Geo. E. Sharswood,
Hon. John M. Read,	Hon. H. W. Williams,
Hon. Joseph E. Borie,	Hon. I. G. Gordon,
Hon. John Welsh,	Hon. Ulysses Mercur,
Hon. Geo. E. Gowen,	Hon. Jno. M. Kirkpatrick,
Hon. George Leaf,	Hon. Thos. M. Marshall.

These are the names of men well known outside the State, as well as in it—men known to be citizens of integrity and uprightness in all the relations of life, and we could increase the list largely, if it were needed. Can Mr. Geo. V. Lawrence, or Mr. John W. Forney, or any of their coadjutors lay their fingers on the names of these men and say that they opposed the Constitution because they were the friends and beneficiaries of corrupt legislation? No man in Pennsylvania is bold enough, or reckless enough, or mendacious enough to do that. Every one will admit that they were actuated in their opposition by honest and conscientious convictions of duty; and the motives that actuated them, actuated the great mass of those who voted in consonance with them.

Let it be fairly understood, then, that the opposition to the Constitution did not grow out of the provisions in it regarding Legislation, but out of other and totally distinct causes. So far as the *Commercial* is concerned we are now, as we always have been, the open foe of corruption everywhere, no matter by whom practiced. We are not so sanguine as to believe that the new Constitution will bring about the millennium, or regenerate the hearts of the people; but for whatever it may contribute towards checking or preventing corruption in the Legislature or elsewhere we shall be heartily thankful. If the Article on Legislation had been submitted to a separate vote, we should have supported it cordially, although we believe it materially defective in some of its provisions, and it would have met with no opposition anywhere.

We shall not recur to this subject again, unless driven to it. The Constitution is adopted and, so far as we are concerned, it shall have a fair trial. Those who opposed its adoption did so because they had the right, and because their sense of duty led them in that direction, and they are entitled to have their motives not only respected but fairly represented. The current impression abroad, cultivated assiduously by some of the indiscreet friends of the new instrument, that their opposition sprang from mercenary and interested motives, does them a gross injustice; and having done our share towards correcting it, we leave the further correction of it to those who originally inflicted it.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Oranges are retailing in Florida at one and a half cents.

Canada is to have a permanent committee on woods and forests, looking to their preservation.

The Mennonites have decided upon Minnesota as their future home, following the advice of St. Paul.

It is most time for well disposed people to think of the new resolutions they will make on New Year's day.

An owl lately flew into a house in Jacksonville, Fla., and attacked the lady thereof, biting her severely on the ear.

The mistletoe season has come around, and the popular song of the hour is, "Tears for tomorrow, but kisses to-day."

Brigham Young's cannon factory has turned out ninety-eight pieces of artillery, and he has 17,000 stand of arms.

How to feed hungry visitors at Centennial tea fights—Take away *t* from the tea-table, and it becomes *eatable*.

Macon, Miss., put a murder case on trial at 9 o'clock in the morning and before 11 the prisoner had been sentenced to be hung.

The same green tea that poisoned the Lake family, of Jacksonville, came near killing a couple of dogs that were subsequently induced to try it.

The Kentucky Senate has voted to submit to one of the towns of that State the question of local prohibition, as an experiment—prohibition on the homœopathic principle.

A landslide fifty feet wide lately occurred on a Louis county, Ky., hill, taking along trees sixty feet high and leaving them standing in the valley below.

As a Missouri female temperance lecturer was bringing her address to a close, a gentleman, formerly a member of the press, rose to explain "in the interest of those who loved a good drink and didn't care a d—n who knew it."

The total number of pupils enrolled in the schools of Tennessee is 178,076. Of this number 24,325 are colored. There are 880 colored schools in the State now organized, and 542 colored teachers employed.

A reform is to be introduced in the science of entomology. Many insects are now known under several different names, which gives rise to much confusion, and it has been suggested that one name shall be assigned to each, by which it shall be hereafter known.

The biggest mining story yet is told of a company at Pleasanton, Kan., which, after digging down about 60 feet, has struck a solid wall of lead 14 feet in thickness, and the bottom of the deposit has not yet been reached.

An infant recently found on Father Hughes's door step at Morrisania, New York, was carried to a fair at St. Mary's Church and raffled for at ten cents a chance. The lady who won it kissed it enthusiastically, and departed in high glee to surprise her husband.

A remarkably dirty man stepped in front of a small boy sitting on a fence, expecting to have some fun by chaffing him. He said, "How much do you weigh?" The answer was, "Well, about as much as you would if you were washed."

Hard times and dishonesty among stewards have got a pretty tight grip on the clubs of New York city. The Manhattan club has got to raise $90,000 at once, to meet its obligations, while the Long Island club will probably have to be sold out soon, and nearly all the rest are having a hard wrestle with the financial question.

From our Sunday School editor: An excellent way to entertain an infant class is to keep them chewing. Hard boiled molasses candy sticks their jaws, occupies their minds, gives them sweet recollections and makes them behave generally during recitation. For very turbulent children, put a little more rosin into the candy when boiling it.

Louisiana, which before the war was behind some of the other States in the production of cotton, has now come largely to the front. She raises this year some 1,200,000 bales out of the 3,900,000 bales raised in all the South. To do this she has largely abandoned the cultivation of sugar.

"What do you sell these fowls for?" inquired a person of a man attempting to dispose of some chickens of questionable appearance. "I sell them for profits," was the answer. "Thank you for the information that they are prophets," responded the querist; "I took them to be patriarchs."

A very respectable citizen of Concord, N. H., has been fined fifty dollars because he let a room in a block which he owned for a cigar store, and the occupant sold ale and cider in it without his permission. There may be justice and the advantage of free institutions in this, but we fail to see its superiority to despotism.

It is said that the Kindergarten system in the St. Louis schools, although introduced but a short time ago, is now in full operation and producing excellent results. It shows all the benefits claimed for it, and develops particularly the two widely different activities—the mathematical and the productive.

Don't be stubborn unless you are sure you can afford it. Right in the midst of the late panic an Iowa man chose to be perversely obstinate. His daughter wanted a ninety-dollar silk dress and he wouldn't get it, and he lost sixty dollars by the operation. She took cold poison, and the funeral expenses were a hundred and fifty dollars.

The continued scarcity of coal in England still tempts dealers to sell poor stuff at high prices. They advertise the "best" coals—meaning the best they have—not the best there is. One of them gave as an excuse for not remitting the money for a lot of poor stuff delivered to a gentleman in London, when he wrote to him remonstrating, that he thought from the small quantity of coals in dispute it was "some poor person" who was complaining. "Poor persons" grumbling about their coals were beneath a respectable coal dealer's notice.

The Boston correspondent of the Hartford *Courant* writes: "The latest statement with regard to the future of the *Atlantic Monthly* is to the effect that its character is to be radically changed, if not immediately, ere long in the future. There are those who say that it will pass into the hands of the Methodist denomination and become their literary organ. Mr. Houghton, who has purchased it, is a Methodist; but the impression of those who talk in this way is that he has not bought it for himself, but for the Methodist denomination. That denomination is spending more money in organized literary effort than ever before. Some say it is aiming to found a university here that shall eclipse Harvard College. It is believed to have been contemplating the publication of a literary periodical for some time. It may be those acting for it found it better policy to buy the *Atlantic* and convert it to their objects than to start out anew. They save the slow work of building up, and they extinguish an organ of heresy. If this be so, the children of light have stolen a march, indeed, upon the children of the world."

A lady, who was once a housekeeper for the gentleman who is now her husband, undertook to give a grand ball at her residence in New York, last week. Six hundred cards of invitation were issued. On the eventful evening less than thirty ladies and gentlemen were present at the entertainment. This is called, by fashionables the finest snub of the season.

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

A general revival influence is being felt at New Washington, Pa., in the Methodist Church, Rev. C. P. Goodrich, pastor.

Quite a number have been added to the church recently in Bookville charge, Pittsburg Conference, Methodist Church, Rev. J. H. Smith, pastor.

The Carson street Methodist Episcopal Church, South Side, is having a revival meeting of much interest, Rev. E. Hingeley, the pastor, is much encouraged.

Rev. G. H. Humphrey, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, South Side, is having pleasant meetings, and some indications of prosperity.

Rev. J. B. Lucas, will preach on Sabbath morning on the "Breastplate of Righteousness," and in the evening on "The Importance of the Feet being Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace." The series of sermons on the "Christian Armor," is attracting considerable attention in the congregation, and it is hoped will be productive of good.

Rev. L. Maguire, pastor of Bingham street Methodist Episcopal Church, is an earnest worker, and has the confidence and co-operation of the workers in his congregation.

Rev. J. L. Simpson, pastor of First Methodist Church, Allegheny city, has been unable to attend to his duties as minister in his congregation for several days, on account of ill health. He has the sympathy of his people, and also of his brethren in the ministry.

Rev. J. W. Rutledge, who some time since received an injury in falling on his steps, is now able to be about. We are glad to be able to make this statement.

The revival at Port Perry has closed. Some forty were converted and added to the church. Rev. Morrow is highly esteemed by all the community, and will, no doubt, look with great care after those who are young in the faith.

Rev. Dr. Pearson, pastor Fourth street Baptist Church, is attracting large congregations and is building up the work generally. Dr. Pearson is highly appreciated by the people and the community at large.

Rev. C. A. Homes, D.D., pastor North avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, is having prosperity in his congregation. Dr. Homes is well known in this community as an able defender of the truth.

The Methodist Church, Steubenville, Ohio, is prospering under the very efficient labor of Rev. John Coul.

The First Presbyterian Church, Wood street, Rev. Dr. Scovel pastor, is one of the largest congregations in the city, and is having a good degree of success.

Rev. Dr. Noble, of the Third Presbyterian Church, has a full congregation at each service on Sabbath. Dr. Noble is laboring to advance the cause of Christ on broad Gospel principle.

Rev. E. M. Long, who is now in the city in, introducing illustrative preaching, will preach in Connellsville next Sabbath, morning and evening.

Rev. Dr. Wilson, pastor Salem Methodist Church, Philadelphia, has been with his present charge about thirty-eight years. Dr. Wilson is possessed of an amiable Christian spirit that makes him pleasant to all with whom he mingles. Recently his congregation have finished their audience room, and have now one of the most pleasant places in which to worship the Lord.

Revivals are reported in the Methodist churches in Morgantown, and also in Fairmount, West Virginia.

The Reformed Episcopal Church is meeting with favor in many parts of the country. There are some things in the economy of the church that we admire very much. The new movement will be watched with great interest.

Christians in contending for the Lord must use the Lord's weapons. If we fight with one another we show to the world that we are not of the Lord. "One is your Master even Christ, and all ye are brethren.

The M. E. Church in East Liberty gives suppers next Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Rev. Thomas M. Tuomly, rector of St. Peter's Church, Steubenville, died on Tuesday afternoon.

Rev. John McConnell, formerly of Chicago, but now in this city, will soon be installed in the Presbyterian church at Emsworth.

The reports of revivals which we find in the newspapers are chiefly from the Methodist Church South. Large numbers, it is said, are added to the church constantly, among them many heads of families and young men.

It was stated by the French delegates to the Evangelical Alliance, that the number of those who profess the Protestant faith in France is less than a million, with only about seven hundred ministers. But it was also stated that these ministers and their followers exert a great influence on society, which is constantly increasing.

The venerable Rev. Henry Boehm, now in his ninety-ninth year, attended the centenary anniversary of the Grove church, in the eastern part of this State, where he officiated as presiding elder in 1813 and 1814, and as pastor in 1824 and 1825. He preached two or three times quite effectively and performed other ministerial duties.

A Wellsburg paper says: Rev. D. H. Snowden, who is now stationed at Clymer, New York, preached in the Presbyterian church, in this place, last Sunday, to a large and attentive audience. Many persons, not of the same belief as Mr. Snowden, turned out to hear him through respect and friendship. It is seldom we see as large audiences as greeted him both day and night, many of those present being from distant parts of the county.

Bishop Haven was to lecture on "Mexico," in Ilion, N. Y., Wednesday of this week.

Rev. W. H. Milburn, the eloquent blind preacher, has been preaching in Chicago recently.

Dr. Thayer, a presiding elder and prominent member of the New England Conference, was married recently in Boston to Miss Haskell. This is the Doctor's fourth wife.

Bishop Peck is announced by the *Northern Advocate* to leave again for California on the 17th instant. He is in excellent health and spirits.

Mr. Rev. Tabor, of Connecticut, devotes his leisure hours to the printing business. He has a Novelty press, a few fonts of type and other printing material, and he prints, for weekly gratuitous distribution outlines of his sermons. This is a novel idea but a good one for it serves to fasten his thoughts upon the people.

The new church to be dedicated at McCoy's Station, Muskingum District, on the 28th of December stands as the monument of the energies of Rev. F. A. Brown, pastor, aided, as he has been, by a few devoted liberal Methodists of that community. The point is a valuable one, being an important station on the Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Wheeling Railway, and the only church in the village.

A remarkable Jew, claiming to be the Messiah, has recently appeared in Arabia where his fame has spread far and wide. He came forth from the desert, where he has spent many years mortifying the flesh, and he pretends to work wonders and perform miracles, and give the evidence of his divine mission. He has a melodious voice, remarkably brilliant eyes, and a fascinating appearance, and is winning followers.

Rev. J. J. Murray, pastor of the First Methodist Church Pittsburgh, will deliver a lecture in the Second Church, Rebecca street, Allegheny, on Tuesday evening, December 23d, for the benefit of the church. His topic, "Sunshine," will be novel and attractive to Pittsburghers generally, and we are sure a literary treat awaits all who will attend. Pastor Siviter deserves success for his earnest work at Rebecca street. Let all our people, from both sides of both rivers, turn out.

The *Christian Advocate* is a very interesting, and high-toned religious paper. Dr. Hunter makes it a desirable visitor to the many families by whom it is read.

Dr. Howard is one of the ministers who does not change often. He has been with his congregation for a great many years. He is esteemed by his people, notwithstanding the fact that he has been so long with them. Ministers who are constantly changing, never become acquainted with their people, and hence they are not as successful as they might be were they to remain longer.

Rev. R. M. Sweeny read an interesting essay at the District Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, at Washington, Pa., last week, on the "Duty of Parents to the Sabbath school." This is an important subject and should be considered well in this city, where the children are largely neglected, even by their parents.

Rev. J. J. Murray, D. D., pastor of the Fifth avenue Methodist Church, will preach, by request, on Sabbath evening, from "He pitched his tent toward Sodom." The sermon is said to be one of thought and power.

Wooden vs. Armored Vessels.

The New York *Times* has an editorial on the relative prowess of wooden and armored vessels of war, from which we quote: It was in a wooden ship, for example, that Admiral Tegetthoff, in the famous fight of Lissa, ran down and sank the finest iron-clad in the Italian navy—one of the finest, indeed, that was ever built. And this remarkable achievement the Austrian commander accomplished with scarcely any loss, and with only trifling damage to his vessel. It was with wooden ships, for the most part, that our own Farragut ran the gauntlet of forts and batteries at New Orleans and Mobile. It was a wooden ship, the Varuna, that in the formal engagement destroyed two or three iron-clad rebel rams before she herself went down, while in the latter it was an iron-clad, perhaps the strongest in the fleet, that had the curious fate of being destroyed by a torpedo, which her wooden companions had passed in safety. It was with a fleet of wooden ships that Admiral Dupont silenced the batteries at Port Royal, while iron-clads were repulsed at Drewry's Bluff. If the records of Mississippi campaigns were carefully collated, additional proof might be found that armor alone does not contain the secret of naval superiority. And if we recur to the first great naval battle which brought armored and wooden vessels into collision, it will be seen that it was the Merrimac's power as a ram, and not her invulnerability, that gave her the victory over the Cumberland and the Congress. The little Monitor easily beat her back, crippled and disabled. Into Norfolk, there to be eventually sunk as hopeless of escape.

PERSONAL.

Henry Clews's marriage to Miss Worthington, niece of the Secretary of War, is announced to take place before the close of the season.

Archbishop Stephanowitch, the highest Armenian ecclesiastic, is one hundred and five years old.

G. W. Griffin, the present United States Consul in Denmark, has recently been elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, in Copenhagen.

The Congressman-at-Large from South Carolina, Richard H. Cain, was fourteen years ago pastor of an African Methodist Church in Muscatine.

Girls, learn to swim, all of you. The Misses Mixter of Boston, who were saved from the Ville du Havre, were excellent swimmers. They went down with the ship, and then "struck out."

Miss Massey died in Kentucky, recently, aged sixty-five years. She was born without arms or legs, was of more than ordinary intellect and energy, and could sweep the floor and write well.

A wag recently went into the office of the Paris *True Kentuckian* during the absence of Craddock, its editor, and had inserted a poem to Craddock's first born. Craddock did not observe it until the paper was printed, when he went through the entire edition and clipped out the offending rhyme.

Congressman Lamar of Mississippi should beware. Col. Billy Wilson is after him. In a recent speech, he spoke of Col. Billy's zouaves as recruited from the penitentiary. Col. Billy says the congressman is a liar, and adds: "Lamar may abuse my regiment, but the poor southern widows and orphans who shared our rations at Pensacola will give us a certificate. I hope soon to meet Mr. Lamar. His class are not fire-eaters but dirt-eaters. I think he will apologize after I pay my respects to him."

Tweed's case is not as hopeless as his response to the inquiry of the prison, warden as to his his religious views would indicate. Although he then had "no religion," it was evident that he was "under conviction."

The January *Galaxy* will contain an article by Judge Black in reply to Mr. Adams's eulogy on Mr. Seward. Fair-minded people will think that Judge Black has gone as far to one extreme as Mr. Adams did to the other, in his estimate of Mr. Seward. As specimens of sharp, clear, and vigorous writing, it may almost be said that Judge Black's magazine articles are equal to the world-renowned Junius Letters.

"Neal & Pray" was the title of a house in New England, of which both members were anything but religiously inclined. "Bolt & Steel" was another firm in which both members were noted for their honorable character—quite as much as "Wright & Justice," who were their neighbors. "U. Ketchum & I. Cheatham" is a well known old incongruity; but the marriage of Benjamin Bird, aged sixty, to Julia Chaff, aged twenty, showing that "an old bird may be caught by chaff," is not so familiar; nor is the marriage of George Virtue to Susan Vice. These collections of familiar names are "odd" enough; and so it is when we find in a newspaper paragraph that John Makepeace has been arrested for instigating a riot, or when Parson Playfair is charged with cheating at cards.

We have never heard of anything more beautiful than this story of a married woman whose will has been proved in England. She gave all her estate to Mr. Van Haurigh, her husband; directed her clothes to be sold to pay her funeral expenses, and added: "It is also my earnest wish that my darling husband should marry ere long a nice, pretty girl, who is a good housekeeper, and, above all, to be careful that she is of good temper."

The Davenport brothers have been trying to mystify the State of Rhode Island with their spiritualistic exhibitions, but the sturdy little State don't mystify worth a cent. A daring mortal at Westerly the other evening suddenly turned a dark lantern on the scene of the mysterious music, and the brothers were seen free from ropes, and making all the noise in the ordinary muscular way.

The Niagara Railway Suspension Bridge.

This bridge was opened for traffic eighteen years ago last August, and the first retimbering it has had has just been completed. The work began the 7th of April last, and has been under the general supervision of George McKenzie, master mechanic, with William Gardner and William McFaul as foremen. Mr. McKenzie so managed the work that at no time has there been any detention of trains or teams, and no accidents of any magnitude have occurred. Mr. McKenzie says that 900,000 feet of seasoned timber has been used in the retimbering process, and about $10,000 has been paid for labor. The most difficult part of the job has been to rebuild the girders under the railway track. The last stroke of the work was done on Saturday, the 28th ult., and the bridge stands now as good as new in its wood work.

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FINANCE AND TRADE

FRIDAY EVENING, December 19, 1873.

The dull, heavy rain which has been falling all day has acted as a wet blanket on the spirit of the market, and operators in every line have kept to their firesides. Occasionally a disconsolate broker was to be seen standing on one foot on the street corner cogitating in what direction he should go to try to raise funds for some more than ordinarily impecunious client, but with a hopeless cast of countenance which indicated frequent uncompromising "No's" from dealers in Government promises to pay. The transactions are few and far between, and on the basis usually of private arrangement, so that no new quotations can be given. Rates remain about the same as last reported, and money moderately abundant in bank circles.

The currency question has ceased to trouble, and the supply of bank notes on Eastern exchange is a thing easily adjusted among the banks in their daily settlements.

Among the sales of investment shares on the Philadelphia stock board, we note Allegheny Valley's 7-30 per cent. at 80½. When it is considered that most of the bonds, of even richer roads than the Allegheny Valley, have dropped from 10 to 20 per cent. below the quotations of September last, the fact that the 7-30 loan of that road is within 3 per cent. of the quotations made prior to the panic, indicates the confidence which holders of that loan repose in its stability.

One of the lowest bonds on the list is the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis 7 per cent. mortgage, which is selling at 65. Operators familiar with the condition of that road can see a fair chance for a handsome profit in a short turn in these bonds, for there is no good reason why they should not be quoted 20 per cent. higher before many months.

Notwithstanding the disreputable manner in which our city bonds have been handled by the Nation Trust Company, our Philadelphia friends, who are the largest buyers of city bonds, seem to have full faith in them, as sales are reported at par and interest. No one familiar with the financial condition of the city doubts her taking care of all her obligations, especially as now there is no danger of any loss arising from the "irregularities" in placing the water loan.

Our home dealers report the stock of the National banks and other dividend-paying institutions as but slightly affected by the panic. Holders feel too secure to sacrifice their shares to the influence of the tight money market unless compelled by necessity.

—To the question of our respected friend R. H., of Providence, concerning the paper issue of the Bank of England, we reply that he has, in his own suggestion, rightly divined the true explanation. The act of 1844 limited the issue upon metes securities to £14,006,000 (the bank capital at that time invested in such securities being £14,553,000), with the proviso that when any of the provincial banks, then enjoying a limited paper money circulation under previous acts of Parliament, should cease to issue such notes, the Bank of England might increase, upon sufficient securities, its own paper issues to two-thirds and no more of the amount thus relinquished by those institutions. And no new issues by other banks were to be authorized, and no banks once ceasing to issue could again resume. Under this proviso the limit gradually increased; in 1855 it had reached £14,475,000, and it is now about £15,-000,000.—*Journal of Commerce.*

—Attorney General Williams, on a question submitted to him by the Secretary of the Treasury, decides that a payment made by a debtor to a creditor who has committed an act of bankruptcy and against whom proceedings in bankruptcy have been instituted and are pending, but who has not yet been adjudged a bankrupt, will not be valid in the event of an adjudication of bankruptcy in such proceedings. If the payment is attempted subsequent to the filing of petition therein, and that payment was made by a debtor to a creditor who is known to have committed an act of bankruptcy, but against whom proceedings have not at the time been taken, it is valid in so far as it is affected by existing bankruptcy laws.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 19, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾
Canton	57	57	57	57	57	57
Western Union Tel'g'h	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½
Pacific Mail	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾	37¼
Adams Express	—	70	—	70	—	—
Wells, Fargo & Co	—	70	—	70	—	—
American Express	—	66¾	—	66¾	—	—
United States Express	—	66¾	—	66¾	—	—
New York Central	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	95¼
Michigan Central	90	90	90	90	—	—
Michigan Southern	75¾	75¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾
Illinois Central	100	100	—	100	—	—
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	84¾	84¾	84	84¾	—	—
Chicago & Northwestern	35¾	35¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾
Do preferred	—	67¾	67¾	67¾	67¾	67¾
Rock Island	95¾	95¾	95¾	95¾	—	95¾
St. Paul	—	—	29¾	30	—	—
Do preferred	63¾	63¾	63¾	63¾	63¾	63¾
Wabash	49¼	49¼	49	49	49¼	48¾
Fort Wayne	—	—	97	97	—	—
Ohio and Mississippi	29¾	29¾	29¾	29¾	29¾	29¾
Union Pacific	29¾	29¾	28¾	29	29¾	29¾
Chicago and Alton	—	101	—	100	—	—
Boston, Hartf'd and Erie	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harlem	—	121¾	—	121¾	—	—

—The following are the quotations for Government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Even'g.
1881, coupons	119¾	119	118¾
5-20s, 1865	114	113¾	113¾
5-20s, 1864	115	114	114
5-20s, 1865	115¾	114¾	114¾
5-20s, 1867	117¾	117¾	117¾
5-20s, 1867	119	118	117¾
5-20s, 1868	117¾	117	117
10-40s	111	111¾	110
10-40s, coupons	112	111¾	111
Currency 6s	124¾	124¾	124¾
New 5s	112	112	111¾
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees	80¾	81	81
Tennessees, new	—	81	81
South Carolinas, July	—	19	19
Missouri 6s	—	92¼	92¼

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	45¾
Penna. Scrip	99¾
Reading	95¾
United Co's N. J.	116
Oil Creek	15
Lehigh Valley	53¾
A. V. R. R. 7-30	88¾
Cential Trans.	39¾
Pitts. Cin. & St. Louis R. R.	67

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, December 20, 1873.

The following are the entire receipts of the leading articles for this market, by river and rail, for the twenty-four hours ending to-day:

Flour, bbls	71	Wool, packs	130
Apples, bbls	147	Corn, sacks	1,240
Cheese, bxs	120	Barley, sacks	157
Butter, pkgs	86	Rye, sacks	30
Bacon, lbs	45	Oats, sacks	237

The market opened to-day with an improvement, and in despite the threatening weather, the volume of business indicated a decided increase over the previous day. The supply in market was smaller than it would be if the country roads were in better condition for wagon hauling, owing to the continued mild weather they are almost impassable, except those on our well established turnpike companies. The rivers continue in good navigable order, which is not without its good effects on trade. Flour and grain continue firm, with an upward tendency. Groceries—There is nothing new to note in the market, except that coffee is firmer, although there is no change in quotations to day.

The following will indicate the state of the market in detail, together with the latest quotations based upon actual sales:

APPLES—The arrivals are not so heavy, but the supply is in keeping with the demand, which is fairly active. Sales were made at $3 per bbl; common to good at $2 00@3 50 for prime to choice.

APPLE BUTTER—There is a fair seasonable demand, but quotations are unchanged. Sales at 60@70c per gallon.

ASHES—The market continues quiet, with but little going. The nominal prices are: Soda Ash, common, 3¾@4c; Reduced, 5c; Potash, 9c; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 8c; Black Lead, 7c.

ALES—The market is firm, with a fair demand. The card prices are as follows: X $ ⅌ bbl; XX, $9; India ale $10 ⅌ bbl; Base Burton ale, in glass, pints of 23 gals, $22 70@24 24; bbls, 41 gals, $22 25@24 lbds, 63 gals, $22 50@24; 41 gal. casks, bottled, $23 75; Wm. Younger's India pale ale in cases of 5 doz bottles, $8 ⅌ doz; Robt. Younges of sparkling ale $3 ⅌ doz; Guinness stouts, bottled by E. & A. Burke, $1 ⅌ doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 ⅌ doz; Caswells, Hazard & Co's ginger ale $1 75 ⅌ doz.

BRANS—The demand is light and the market is dull. Sales at $2@2 25 for fair to choice.

BORAX—Refined 25c ⅌ lb.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—Market steady; sales per doz ¼ lb cans, $1 60; ½ lb do $3 00; 1 lb do $5 50; 5 lb cans, $27 00 per dozen.

BROOM CORN—Market quiet with sales red and red topped 5½@6¾; fair to good green 7½@8¾c. Hurl 9½@10c per lb.

BUTTER—The supply is in keeping with the demand, which is rather brisk for the choice grades. Sales at 28@31c ⅌ lb for choice roll. There is no fancy price for the lower grades.

BEANS—The market is dull at $1 75@2 25 for choice Navy.

BAGGING—Penn mill, two bushel bags, 85c; two-and-one-half bushel, 42c; three bushel, 50c.

BUCKWHEAT—Selling at from 4c to 4½c ⅌ lb.

BREAD WAX—2c to 20c ⅌ lb.

BROOMS—No 2, $2 ⅌ doz; No 3, $2 50 ⅌ doz; No 4, $3 ⅌ doz; No 5, $3 50 ⅌ doz; Parlor, $4 ⅌ doz; 3 sewed, $5 ⅌ doz; toy brooms and whisps, $1 50@2. In a jobbing way, from store, 25 to 31¼c ⅌ doz additional.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—The market continues steady, but prices which are very low, are unchanged. Below are the current rates: Extra sugar cured hams 12¾c; shoulders, extra sugar cured, 9¾c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 11¾c; dried beef, extra sugar cured, 15¾c; bacon shoulders, 8¾c; rib sides, 9c; short rib sides, 9¾c; clear sides 10c; mess pork $17 00 per bbl; prime, prime leaf in tierces, 9¾c per lb; prime leaf in half bbls, 10c; prime leaf in buckets, 10¾c; refined for summer use in tierces, 9¾c; do in half bbls, 10c; do in buckets, 10¾c; refined in 3 lb caddies, 12c; do in 5 lb caddies, 11¾c; do in 3 lb pails, 13c; in 5 lb pails, 12¾c; ham sausage, 10c.

CANDLES—The market is quiet and prices are firm. Sales at the work free on cars 11@11½c per gallon, and the usual advance for small lots.

CIDER—In good supply with sales at $5@6 per bbl.

CHEESE—The market is firm; rates are $10 to $13 per bbl; $3 50 to $4 per box.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Dealers report sales at $7 50 ⅌ case of four dozen packages.

CORN MEAL—The supply continues to meet the demands of the market, with sales at $30 ⅌ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 ⅌ cwt., from store.

CRACKERS—Trade continues satisfactory. Prices for the following grades remain firm but unchanged. We quote: Lemon biscuit 11c; ginger snaps 12c; oyster crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; sugar crackers 9¼c; butter crackers 7c; wine 10½c ⅌ lb.

CRANBERRIES—We have nothing new to report in regard to this article. Prices were as follows: Beeson's Phenix $9 00@9 50; Louisville $2 25@2 50; Rosedale $4 00@4 50; white lime $2 00; calcined plaster $4 50; land plaster $3 00@3 50.

CHEESE—Good Ohio factory 12¾@13c; prime Ohio Factory, September make, 14½@15c to the trade, and 15@15½c by the jobbing way; Young America 15c; Limburg 17c; prime to choice Onio Sweitzer 16 @18c.

DRESSED HOGS—Sales at 5¾@6¾c.

EGGS—The supply continues ample, and the market is active for shipping, which are being all but selling at 20c per dz, and packed, which are in heavy request ⅌ dz, and packed, which are in heavy request @ 22c per dz, at farmer.

FISH—Prices remain unchanged. We quote: No. 1 extra mess mackerel $22; No. 1 mess do, $33; extra No. 1 shore mackerel, $26; No. 1 shore do, $23; extra No. 1 bay mackerel, $19; No. 1 bay mackerel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackerel, $17; No. 2 shore mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $12 50; No. 3 mackerel, $11; split Labrador herring, $5 50 ⅌ bbl; scaled herring, 60c ⅌ box; No. 1 do ⅌ bbl, $7 00@7 50; large Georges $7 50@8 00 lake trout, $7 00@7 50; medium Georges codfish, $6 50 @7 00; large do ⅌ 100 pounds, $5 00@5 50; pickled herring, scale 50c ⅌ box; No. 1 do ⅌ bbl, $7 00@7 50; large

The Half Million Bonds.

The Closing Testimony Before the Finance Committee.

The Philadelphia Agent on the Stand.

THE CITY BONDS REGISTRY.

Those Collaterals from Lindsay & Grier as a Silent Partner.

A BROKER HIS AGENT

Interesting and Important Testimony—The Hypothecated School Bonds—The Committee to Report on Monday.

The Finance Committee yesterday continued the investigation of the matter of the hypothecated Water Bonds, with the following result:

Mr. Henry Wheelen was duly sworn and testified as follows:

Q. By Mr. Phillips—Are you a member of the firm of Wm. Phaelen, Wheelen & Co., brokers of Philadelphia? A. Yes, sir.

Q. I believe you pay the interest on the bonds of the city of Pittsburgh? A. For what purpose? A. We have done so for some years.

Q. When at your suggestion that a bond clerk was appointed for the city of Pittsburgh? A. Some years ago when our sales of the bonds became large, their became a disposition to examine in to the matter a little, and I was myself led to look into the matter of transfers; I felt that every bond I sold I wished to be right, so that in the future no reflection could occur upon us. I found that when the interest loans were sent to us they were often incorrect. I represented the matter here and the reply was that almost every one was overworked, and that it was difficult to ascertain whose duty it was to attend to these things. I then said that the interests involved were so large that I thought some person ought to be selected as particularly responsible for that department, and that when we remitted money we ought to get the bonds back in a reasonably quick time, and when the transfer was made it ought to be correctly done; and that the interest was a grave question, and I urged it as much as I felt at liberty to do under the circumstances.

Q. Whom did you urge? A. I talked with Mr. Cochran, Mr. Magee, Mr. Steele and several other gentlemen, possibly yourself.

Q. When was that charge made and a bond clerk appointed? A. Without knowing accurately, I should say eighteen months ago.

Q. How does it appear to work now? A. Very correctly, sir; we have had no cause whatever to complain.

Q. By Mr. Negley—In making sales of bonds would you prefer to have the bonds to deliver at the time of sale, or have them to deliver after the sale is made? A. Our rule has been uniformly to remit the money before asking the city to issue the bonds to us. We always thought that was the proper and correct way, and it has been the uniform rule with us.

Q. By Mr. Gross—Pending this trouble with the Nation Trust Company it appears that some of these bonds have been found deficient. You weren't have found that it had any effect in Philadelphia upon the credit of the city of Pittsburgh? A. We found this like all similar cases that quite a surprise was manifested, and some annoyance, but we always held to the city as so solid that even with this loss it ought cught not to be very gravely affected.

Q. Do you think, as far as this matter is concerned, the city's credit will recover its usual buoyancy? A. I hope so; it ought to.

Q. Do you remember to whose order those checks were drawn that you remitted to the city treasury? A. All that I have had interest to do with in remitting have been drawn to the order of D. W. C. Carrol, Treasurer.

Q. Have you had any demand made upon you for interest on bonds other than those on your list? A. I think in one instance only; that was where I had been remarkably correct, and the case I refer to was just a small item which was immediately corrected upon proper notice being given.

Q. There is been nothing coming under your observation to indicate that on the night of Mr. Grier's disappearance, was that returned? A. I returned that with the papers that I spoke of the other day; a gentleman by the name of Ross, who used to be a banker in the Tenth ward and now lives in East Liberty, was in our bank nearly every day for about two weeks in reference to this draft; I think they called this a second bill of exchange; one had been sent to Germany or lost and never accounted for; this was among the papers Mr. Lindsey gave me.

Q. What Lindsey? A. James Lindsey; when I gave my former testimony I stated that I heard from Mr. Armstrong that Mr. Lindsey had a package for me; I went over to his house, and he handed me several notes, and these notes I would like to name; one was made by a gentleman of the name of O'Hern, who boards at the Monongahela House, and, I am told, is endorsed by James Tunick, and another is a Mr. McKee, who lives on Mt. Washington; I think there were two notes there, and the notes were overdue. Then I got a note of Mr. McKee endorsed by Jas. Blackmore, that was overdue and had never been protested; this note was old and ragged. Then I got this draft and a memorandum of notes that had been left in our bank for discount, and probably discounted; the memorandum contained the name of the makers, the date, the names of the indorsers and the amounts; Mr. Lindsey told me to say to the bank officers that Mr. Grier said these were notes that Smith & Son had taken and placed and drawn to use as collaterals for a loan they gave the bank; they were for money that they had advanced to the bank at the time of the panic, I believe to the amount of $70,000.

Q. In whose writing was that memorandum? A. I think in Mr. Grier's.

Q. By Mr. Phillips—Mr. Smith then took certain notes of the bank down to the city where others discounted in some other bank in Pittsburgh, and he returned to the Nation Trust Company the proceeds; is that the way? A. I don't think that is the way. At the time of the panic Mr. Roland Smith came over to the bank and proposed to give us a loan, and get the money from the city; how he was to get it I cannot tell. When he gave us this assistance, he got these notes as collateral security; that is my understanding of it.

Q. Has you that memorandum with you? A. I returned it with the other papers. I have not seen Mr. Brickell this morning for it and he said he did not desire to give it up.

Q. By Mr. Negley—You understand that Smith & Son, loaned the bank some money and they got these notes for collateral security? A. That is the way I understood it. At the same time I also got fifty shares of Castle Shannon stock from Mr. Lindsey. I also got some kind of a memorandum showing that he had some twenty-eight acres of oil land in Butler county; I remember when he bought it, he paid $4,000 for it; this Mr. Lindsey said I was to have, but I returned it to the bank declined to accept the gift.

Q. Leaving out the gold draft, what did these notes amount in the aggregate that were returned to you? A. I think the O'Hern note and Blackmore amounted to $18,400, and the McKee & Blackmore no es, or the notes indorsed by Blackmore, was $3,600, I think.

Q. What was the value of these fifty shares of Castle Shannon stock? A. I do not know if he had paid it up fully or not. If he had it would be worth $1,000, or at least that he had paid for the same amount; that is in the bank now.

Q. When did you secure these papers from Mr. Lindsey? A. Two or three days after Mr. Grier disappeared, I suppose.

Q. Was there any writing in this memorandum except what you have mentioned? A. Nothing, except a memorandum of the notes; nothing else.

Q. What Lindsey is this? A. James Lindsey, of the firm of Lindsey, McCutcheon & Co.

Q. Is he any relation to Grier? A. Not that I know of; they were very intimate friends.

Q. Do you know where Lindsey is now? A. I do not; I saw him on Thanksgiving Day, and have not seen him since.

Q. You spoke of notes being used by some body as collateral; do you understand why they were kept out of bank? A. I do not; I was surprised when I saw the O'Hern and Tunick notes; the conclusion I came to was that Brickell had been taken away without the knowledge of the President or Directors.

Q. Were you of the opinion that money had been used as collaterals? A. No, they did not appear to be worth anything to anybody, but those on the men ornamental I thought were all good.

TESTIMONY OF THE BOND CLERK.

Mr. J. Diehl was duly sworn, and testified:

Q. By Mr. Phillips—What position do you occupy in the city government? A. Bond clerk.

Q. When did you enter upon your duties? A. The 23d of last May.

Q. What are your duties? A. To register and transfer bonds and make out the interest lists and forward them to Philadelphia.

Q. Do you have anything to do with the Water bonds? A. Nothing further than I register them, making out transfers of the same, &c., making out the interest list on the 1st of April and 1st of October.

Q. From October to November did you not think there was a very large amount of Water bonds registered? A. None came into the office for registration till after 1st of December.

Q. You say that you cannot register any Water bonds? A. Not of any particular account; there might have been a few.

Q. By Mr. Littell—What do you mean by a few? A. Two bonds would be a few.

Q. By Mr. Phillips—How many were registered after the 1st of December? A. $548,500.

Q. How do you get them? A. From the stubs of the Water Commission book, and I then compared them with the book of the Controller.

Q. How did you get the stubs? A. I went for them. In October I got out the interest list of bonds, and I had to get the stubs. Some were held by parties, and not registered. I had to get the stubs containing the name, the number and the amount, and compared them with the record in the Controller's office to make out the interest list.

Q. If they were not returned to you on the 1st of November and you had to get the stubs for October, would you not have known that a large amount of bonds had been issued? A. No, sir; I have no official knowledge of the issue of any bonds.

Q. You say you get the stubs? A. Yes, sir, for the purpose of completing my register.

Q. Is it your duty to look them up yourself, or do you wait till the parties come and notify you of the fact of the bonds being issued? A. I really do not know what my duties; I think it is my duty on the 1st of April and 1st of October to know what amount of bonds have been issued, but I have no official information in reference to it.

Q. Who usually brings them to you to be registered? A. The bonders of the bonds have been bringing a great many.

Q. Did the controller ever bring any? A. Not to my knowledge—for the assistant controller.

Q. What are your duties? A. My duties, 1st, are to register such bonds presented for registration.

Q. Prevented? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Not to look after them? A. No, sir. In order to make out the interest list (and by the way that their interest on them, this is essential); I got the stubs in order to make a list of all bonds that had not been presented. I then compared the list with the list record in the controller's office to see if they were correct. The registry of the issue of the loan of 1873 is about completed, and the transfer of bonds to whom they are transferred.

Q. By Mr. McCune—When bonds are first issued are they then registered? A. I cannot register them unless they are presented to me.

Q. Is there no register made of them? A. There has been none; it seems to have been a mistake that this was not provided for.

Q. Was there no register of bonds extant until you began this business? A. No perfect one.

Q. Was there any? A. They had a book that had them in, but not in a proper shape.

Q. Whose duty was it to put them in shape? A. I do not know.

Q. In whose custody was it? A. It was in the City Treasurer's office.

Q. Then the custom heretofore has been to make no registry of bonds at the time they were issued, and to only register them when presented for transfer or payment of interest? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who issued these bonds? A. They were issued by the Commission, I believe, or John Ross, the secretary.

Q. What other bonds were issued in that way beside water bonds? A. Street bonds.

Q. Where did you get the information as to your sureties? A. From Mr. Magee.

Q. Is there any ordinance defining your duties? A. No, sir; I am appointed under an act of Assembly.

Q. Does that specify your duties? A. No, sir; it only authorizes the appointment of a bond clerk.

Q. You spoke of having registered a large amount of bonds since December? A. Yes, sir; three hundred and forty-eight thousand five hundred dollars.

Q. How many prior to the 1st of October? A. One thousand five hundred and eighty-four dollars.

Q. Do you have a memorandum of coupon bonds issued? A. No, sir; I mean to do that, however; I must get that from the Controller's books.

Mr. Negley here read the act of Assembly authorizing the appointment of a bond clerk.]

Q. Is that the act under which you were appointed? A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have not made a record of the coupon bonds? A. No, sir; they were all issued prior to my going into office; this other matter I was giving in order first.

Q. You say that the bonds were in the handwriting of Mr. Ross; how do you know that? A. By seeing the bonds; I mean those that came into my possession.

Q. Those bonds that were issued in October, are they registered bonds? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are they on your register? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Put on since December? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why do you not altogether depend upon the register made by the Controller? A. Because I had rather see the stubs.

Q. Is is not compelled to keep a register of all bonds issued? A. I do not know, sir.

Q. By Mr. Fetterman—Have you a list of the Water and street bonds that have been registered up to the 1st October? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Will you please read it? [The witness read the following:]

Total interest on the following Water Extension and street improvement bonds:

Oct.—Water	$1,884,000
Dec.—Water, (new)	348,500
Oct.—Thirty-third street	50,000
Oct.—Liberty avenue	50,000
Oct.—Penn avenue	50,000
Oct.—Pearl street	18,000
Oct.—Hiland avenue	6,000
Oct.—Hiland avenue, No. 1	10,000
Oct.—Main street, No 2	1,000
Oct.—Main street	63,000
Oct.—Butler street	65,900
Oct.—Ellsworth avenue	100,000
Oct.—Second avenue	26,000
Oct.—Fifth avenue	290,000
Oct.—Sandy Lane and Walnut	55,000
Sept.—Winebiddle ave ue	7,000
Sept.—Taylor ave nue	12,000
Sept.—Reed	8,500
Oct.—Jane street	19,000
Sept.—Bloomfield	30,000
Sept.—Neville	35,000
Sept.—Elm	12,000
Sept.—Penn	11,500
Aug.—Frankstown avenue	63,000
Aug.—Penn avenue, Butler to 45th	68,000
Aug.—Penn avenue to city line	358,000
	$3,317,400

Q. Those are the agregate taken off your books? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Those are all registered? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are there any cupon street bonds issued? A. I have never seen any, or have never heard of any.

Q. Do you know any street bonds that have not been registered? A. No, sir.

Q. From the records you record goes you have a complete record of all the street bonds that have been issued? A. A compete record of all that have been put on file; I do not know whether there are any issued that are not presented yet; there may be some, but I think if there had been any issued prior to October they would have been presented for interest.

Q. You stated that all the water bonds issued upon the 1st December are registered? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does that include all that were issued during Mr. Ross' administration of the affair, of the Commissioners? A. Yes sir.

Q. You ascertained that from the stubs of the bond books? A. From the stubs of the bond books and from comparison with the controller's books.

Q. Are the bonds ever registered until the names of the purchasers are in them? A. They are never registered until the names of the registers are placed in the bonds; that could not well be done before.

Q. There are none of the coupon water bonds registered? A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know what amounts have been issued? A. No, sir.

Q. By Mr. McCune—Do you not consider it your duty under that act of Assembly to commence making a complete register of all the bonds issued by the city of Pittsburgh? A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have not done that yet? A. I have not had time yet.

Q. Have you had any bonds presented to you that you did not find recorded in the Water Commission and Controller's office? A. No, sir.

GEORGE B. HILL TESTIFIES.

George B Hill was duly sworn and testified as follows:

Q. What is your business? A. Banker and broker.

Q. You have been in that business since last spring? A. Yes, sir.

Q. were you ever engaged in the sale of water bonds? A. Yes, sir.

Q. By whom were they left with you? A. They were always delivered to us by Mr. Ross.

Q. When did you receive water bonds from him? A. I cannot say positively—sometime in April; the first payment we made from the proceeds of bonds was April 29th.

Q. Up to what time did you sell these bonds? A. Up to or nearly to date.

Q. During that time how many bonds did you negotiate amounting to about? A. $157,000; cannot be positive as to the exact amount.

Q. To whom did you pay the money, and how? A. I paid it to Mr. Ross, Secretary of the Water commission, by Clearing House checks—memorandum checks on ourselves drawn to the order of Mr. Ross.

Q. From what institution did you receive these checks; from the Nation Trust Company, or cleared through the tradesman's Bank.

A. From the latter; all these checks were deposited by Mr. Ross? A. I could tell by seeing the checks: I think they were deposited in the National Trust Company.

Q. Do you know whether he deposited any in the Central Bank? A. I think I gave Central Bank two checks—the for $50,000 and one for $12,497 57 for him.

Q. Were they deposited in Mr. Ross's presence check? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were they left there at his request? A. Yes, sir.

Q. State what reasons he had for presenting them there? A. When I sold the bonds to the parties to whom they were the bonds awarded to the Central Bank, they were left with me to get them; I sold them over the house on hand, and divided the commission with the Central Bank.

Q. How were those checks drawn? A. I think they were payable to bearer.

Q. Was your transaction through Mr. Ross? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever have any communication with the Water Commissioners, in regard to the sale or proceeds of bonds? A. I spoke to them on the subject, but never received any bonds from them.

Q. Do you know whether they were aware of your selling bonds for Mr. R ss? A. I understood so.

Q. When did you receive the last? A. Prior to the time we commenced to sell bonds; some time in April.

Q. Did any of the Water Commission know of your depositing the money in the Central bank? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Were any of the Water Commission aware that you paid money to Mr. Ross by checks to his order? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you know that they had any knowledge at all of how you paid the money? A. I do not know that they had.

Q. Did they ever make any inquiry? A. No, sir.

Q. Did they ever make any inquiry as to the sale of bonds by you? A. I could not say positively. I think one or two asked me now I was getting along with the sale, or something like that.

Q. When was that? A. Snorky after we announced to sell.

Q. State whether you paid Ross any money? A. We did not pay him in checks; we sold nearly $157,000, I think, and I think we paid $170,000 in checks. We accounted to the City Solicitor and the Water Commission for the amount of the bonds.

Q. At the time of the sale of these bonds, were there not bonds left with the Nation Trust Company and other banks? A. I do not know about the Nation Trust Company; I know other banks are anxious to sell.

Q. You were just selling these bonds for the Central Bank? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you charge them commission? A. I did; I charged the regular commission, and divided it with the Central Bank.

Q. By Mr. Follansbee—Were you an authorized agent for the sale of the water bonds for the city? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did the money go to? A. It was checked to Mr. Ross, Secretary of the Commission.

Q. Do you know whether these bonds have ever been lifted or not? A. That I am unable to say; the other $5,000 we brought in cash; the bonds that are my bonds, I cannot give you any money but you can raise the money on the bonds, and I did so; it is as a fair, straight business transaction.

Q. How much money has Mr. Grier invested with you in your business above the $5,000 in water bonds? A. I simply wish to say that that is coming to the personal details of my business, and I object to account to the proper authorities as to that matter.

Q. By Mr. Phillips—I understood you to say that Mr. Grier or somebody brought you $5,000 of school bonds; did he tell you to sell them on commission? A. Yes, sir; those bonds were given me by Mr. Grier himself, whether in my office or at the bank; I do not know; I cannot remember on them.

Q. Has your note been paid? It has not, and they are still used as collaterals; and as the matter stands to-day the bonds or any kind I have had any connection with.

Q. Do you know who has the other $5,000? A. I do, but I prefer not to mention the name; the party who has made claim to those bonds knows where they are.

Q. By Mr. Fetterman—Do you know the number of the ward of these school bonds? A. I cannot answer that question with certainty.

Q. Have you any means of ascertaining? A. Certainly, I can find out.

Q. Can you furnish the number of the ward on these bonds within a day or two? A. I suppose I can find that out to-morrow; I will have to see the parties, of course.

Q. Have you any objections to stating who is the owner of that note? A. I have no objection to that, except that as I have sent along through the columns, I do not desire to state the names of such parties unless required to do so; that is business.

Q. By Mr. Negley—Was that person a Director of the bank? A. No, sir.

Q. Was he a stockholder of the bank? A. I believe so.

Mr. Negley—Then I insist on his name. Here is a transaction between the city and the bank; there is where the fraud is; Mr. Grier uses funds of the city of Pittsburgh and of somebody else, that do not belong to him, and he calls for further letters and figures connected with that bank. We have brought out that water bonds were used in the hypothecation of the bonds of some of the directors of the bank. Now here are other bonds that it is alleged were fraudulently obtained and the name of the holder of stockholders of that bank, and I say the question is pertinent to the issue.

Mr. Phillips—It is insisted upon I do not think the witness can refuse to answer the question.

Mr. Kaufman—I have no objection to answering the question, only a delicacy about mentioning names.

Mr. Phillips—I think we will require you to give the name.

Mr. Kaufman—Do you want to know first the name of the maker of this note?

Mr. Phillips—Yes, sir; if he is a stockholder of that bank; also the person who made the proceeds of the $5,000 of bonds were pledged.

Mr. Kaufman—The maker of the note is Francis Andrew, Now remember, I know about this note, it was negotiated back last spring and renewed once or twice between the principal parties of the note and the makers of it.

Q. By Mr. Negley—Does the note refer to the bonds? A. It is an ordinary collateral note.

Q. Does it recite the bonds? A. I cannot remember exactly how it is written; I have no access to school bonds, of course; whether by number or description, I do not know.

Q. Who had the proceeds of the discount? A. I would issue the check as in the proceeds of such notes

Q. Who got the proceeds? A. The proceeds were handed over to Mr. Grier.

Q. Do you keep an account with the Nation Trust Company? A. Yes, sir, but it is not yet settled; I am not prepared to say how it stands on their books; I know I am not overdrawn as their books state; I have tabs for every deposit; those tabs are in my possession.

MR. TAYLOR READS A PAPER.

James A. Taylor was recalled and read the following:

Memorandum of notes on Mr. Grier's memorandum ren'd to Squire Taylor by J. Lindsey, and had no security fer a loan made by them to the Nation Trust Company, viz:

First note is drawn by Rev. B. F. Ferris to the order of M. Domenec for $3,500, dated October 1, three months.

Next note dated September 27, 1872, four months, W. H. Shoenberger, $3,500, by Wm. Smith & Son.

Next note dated October 4, 1873, T. S. Blair and W. H. Shoenberger, $3,750.

Next note dated October 13, 1873, four months, Clemon, Carnagie & Co. and W. H. Hammond, $2,796 99. Next note dated October 6, 1873, five months, same maker and endorser, $2,000.

Mr. Phillips presented the arbitrator's report, which was read by Mr. McCune. [See another column.]

The committee then adjourned, and it was decided to report to Councils on Monday next.

Grand View Avenue.

The Council committee having in charge the investigation into the election of Commissioners for the improvement of Grand View avenue, Coal Hill, met last evening. As is known to our readers, Messrs. A. & W. K. Nimick contest the election of Mr. C. A. Boucher, on the grounds that he is not a property holder; that persons not entitled, were allowed to vote; that persons entitled were not allowed, and that proper notice was not given. At the last meeting, Jacob S. Slagle appeared for the complainants, and C. B. Smith for the defendant. On motion the election was sustained by a vote of four to one.

Christmas Goods.

The old established tea house of Mr. D. M Jenkins, No. 20 Fifth avenue, corner of Market alley, presents particular attractions for the holidays. Teas are a specialty at this house. Mr. Jenkins also carries a specialty of fall fine groceries. His list of new and toothsome goods, published this morning in our advertising columns, should be carefully examined, but the endless variety of the stock requires a more careful examination. The Christmas plum pudding is just the thing at this time. There is no better place to buy and get the "best" at the lowest prices than at Mr. Jenkins's.

THE FIRE COMMISSION.

The Investigation Continued.

More Testimony About Hose.

Mr. Stover and Mr. Elliott on the Stand.

The Carbolized and Star Test Rubber—Members o the Commission Questioned—The Matter of Inducements Inquired After.

The committee having in charge the investigation into the conduct of the Fire Department, met again last evening and continued their inquiries regarding hose, their price and quality. All the members of the committee except Mr. Finley were present together with a majority of the members of the Fire Commission and many Councilmen and citizens.

MR. STOVER TESTIFIES.

Mr. George H. Stover being called and sworn was questioned, and also made statements on several points that had been previously brought out, in his own way. The substance of the testimony of Mr. Stover is as follows: Was not asked by Palmer the reporter as to whether there had been favors in the fire department; I told him that I knew or saw in the papers last summer that the commission had ordered 10,000 feet of what is called carbolized hose—I say it is not, however—at $1 40 per foot; he asked me if that wasn't a big price for it, and I told him it was; told him hose could be had, as good, if not better for $1 10; as far as the "heading" and "varnishing" of the *Leader* statement is concerned, I had nothing to do with it nor its statement about a "big steal;" never made such a remark as that; carbolized hose has been sold in several cities for less than $1 40; this isn't carbolized hose; the manufacturers have been prosecuted; they don't saturate their canvas in carbolic acid; they get over it by saying that they grind it in through the rubber; I have hose which, on sale of 1,000 feet or more, I will guarantee and give bond, at the price of $1 10; this hose has been and is used in several Western cities.

Witness denied the statement of Chief Engineer White, that fourteen sections of the test hose bursted at the Eleventh ward school house fire, and said that but twelve sections were in use there; he branded as a falsehood that they went to pieces, and said that it could be proved that neither one of them burst. He prove that three or four sections of the carbolized hose bursted at the Arbuckle fire. He denied that this hose is carbolized, and said that carbolic acid could not even be smelled. This hose could not be bought for less than $1 40, unless through a broker in New York, and then it would not do to let it be known that it was coming to Pittsburgh. He denied that Mead had "approached" him and said that White had told Mead that one man—Bob Elliott—controlled the Commission. He did not know of this statement to the reporter. He did not know of the commission having been bought, or of bribes being offered, and know of no body connected with the city having been offered or accepted hose than any other.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT STOREKEEPER.

John R. Hague, Storekeeper of the Fire Department, sworn—Have been a fireman for the last two years; have charge of all the hose that goes out of the storehouse and repair that injured; have not seen any of the carbolic hose that bursted, except that that was run over by the cars; have seen the Star Test Rubber Hose, made as solid as the other; this results in the water soaking in and it rots; the test hose has pretty near all gone out of the department; it would rot in the inside of the hose in the dampness went in; I cut it off and then again attach the coupling; it is so near done out that is nearly all out of the department; this is known as the Star Test; carbolic hose has bursted from water pressure, except where a team had run over it; don't think any of it burst near the coupling; think there have been but few instances of the cars running over them and they burst; at the white lead works fire and at the Eleventh ward school house fire the hose was cut to tie—in Stover hose that bursted; in a few instances small holes were made by clinkers in the hose now used.

GEN. ROWLEY DENIES.

Gen. T. A. Rowley sworn:

Q. By Mr. Sample—Mr. Palmer, of the *Leader* office was on the stand last night, and swore in these words, (reading from the *Leader*). "I was induced to write the article against the Fire Commission on information received from General Rowley; he came into the office and stated that there had been put into the hose improper inducements in regard to the purchase of hose."

A. I say it is false. He swore to what was not true.

Witness now explained that he had met Mr. Stover in front of City Hall; and the latter said that he could get hose from Star & Co. for $1.40 when as good could be had for $1.05. He went into the hall and was joking Chief White about that hose talk. Mr. Pittock afterwards invited him to the office and he and asked him about the conversation, and he simply told him what Stover had said.

MANUFACTURERS TESTIFY.

William Woodis, Esq., of the well known iron and steel manufacturing firm of Reese, Graff & Woods, was next sworn, and testified as follows: Our firm has five sections of the carbolized hose, which we got 40 cent for; and extra for the couplings, in New York; we had other hose, leather and gum, but it bursted after inquiry, we purchased the carbolized hose; it is satisfactory; from statements we have found that this hose stands the test; at the large fire in May last, at Wormser, Myers & Co.'s oil refinery, near us, it did stand the test.

Mr. McCarthy—Mr. Woods, had there not been good, reliable hose in use at that fire would not your establishment likely been destroyed, and what would the loss have been?

Answer—Our place would altogether likely have been destroyed, and I would not like to contract to replace the property for $250,000.

Mr. James Park, of Park Bro.'s and Co., Black Diamond Steel Works, was next examined:

Q. Have either three hundred or four hundred feet of the carbolized hose; I saw it used at an oil fire near us, and inquired of the fireman, none of whom I knew, as to the best hose; they answered carbolized; I paid $1.40 per foot for it; tried to get it less but could not; tried to get it on time but was refused.

In answer to a question from Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Park said:

I think it would be madness on the part of the Commission, with the experience of this hose, to buy other because it might be cheaper; in fact would not purchase it.

James E. Crow, Chief Engineer of the Allegheny Fire Department, sworn: Have been a fireman fifteen or twenty years. The carbolized hose cost $1 40 per foot, so far as I know; have used it three years last August; "I" at time but one section bursted, and this was caused by an engine running over it.

John H. McElroy, Chief Engineer of the Pittsburgh Fire Department, sworn—Never fund any fault with the carbolized hose; we used two other kinds with it, and while I was in office only three hose burst; was not in it long enough to get the result of the test of the gum hose; I think the carbolizing of the duck a good thing.

Chief Engineer, of Allegheny, recalled—Have made inquiry of other cities as to the price of the carbolic hose, and learned of none that purchased it cheaper than $1 40. Mr. Crow placed in the hands of the committee letters on the subject from several departments.

ROBERT C. ELLIOTT, SWORN.

Mr. Elliott testified that he had never sold the Commission hose, or anything else; never held out any inducements to the members; is agent for the Gutta Percha Manufacturing Company for their carbolized hose, but not as to sales to this department; did not interfere in the recent report of a Baltimore invoice being sent here; I advised a member if the Allegheny Fire Committee to give Mr. Gregg the contract for the hose if they could furnish it at the price bid; I do not control this Commission, and don't own any body; I have not attended fires since the paid department—that is to take part in the work—and have not been present at a fire in this city; I am capable of judging, and I say we have an excellent department in this city; the Commission are honorable men, and have so far as I know been acting for the best interests of the city.

Mr John H. McIlroy, member of the Commission, detailed his efforts to purchase the hose at a lower figure than $1 40; he had never been offered "inducements" to purchase hose or engines, but had been "felt" by parties on carriages or trucks; Messrs. Fleming, Gardner & Co., an Eastern firm, had attempted it, as also Messrs. Knoch & Lang, of Allegheny city. The latter firm had said it would be made to pay witness well if he got them an order for hose carriages.

The other members of the Commission, Messrs. Jones, Pitcairn, Walton, Chambers, Wilson and Lowry, were next examined severally and collectively asked as to bribery or offers of bribes. Each answered that they never had been "approached" by Mr. Elliott or others.

Fire Marshal Butler next testified as to the excellent quality of the carbolized hose, and that he had ascertained by correspondence that it could not be obtained for less than $1 40 per foot.

The letters of the manufacturing company in answer to those of the Committee endeavoring to get a reduction in price (already published) were next submitted, and the Committee soon after adjourned until half-past three o'clock this afternoon.

Charged With the Murder of "Billy" Diehl.

The readers of the COMMERCIAL will remember that several days ago these columns gave an account of the death of "Billy" Diehl, and the suspicion that foul play had occasioned his death. The matter was partially investigated afterwards, and although some persons concluded that his death was the result of natural causes, officer Hague's private detectives have continued working up the case. Yesterday morning they arrested a German named Jacob Buss, who was found at his house on Troy Hill, on the charge of having committed the assault that caused "Billy's" death. Buss had a hearing before Alderman C. D. Smith in the afternoon, and was held over in $5,000 bail.

Court Project Revived.

The bill to create a new United States Court for the northern district of the State, which was defeated last session, has been again introduced into Congress. As the demand for retrenchment and economy is even more pressing now than it was a year ago, this bill will hardly receive favorable consideration. The business is well up in our Federal courts, and there is no need for any new ones.

MAYOR BLACKMORE is still lying quite ill at his residence in this city.

Water Bonds Arbitration.

REPORT OF THE ARBITRATORS

Amount Awarded the City, $248,904 02.

The following is the report of the arbitrators chosen to settle the amount due the city by the Nation Trust Company, as submitted to the Finance Committee yesterday:

The undersigned to whose arbitrament, by agreement between the city of Pittsburgh and directors and stockholders of the "National Trust Company," otherwise known as the "Nation Trust Company," was submitted, "the question of indebtedness of said company to the city of Pittsburgh, including interest on deposits to date of payment, (outside of the bonds in Philadelphia, which liability is admitted,")

REPORT.

That after due notice given of time and place of meeting, they heard the parties, in person and by their counsel, their proofs and arguments, on several successive days, from the 12th to the 19th of December, 1873, inclusive; and after a thorough examination and careful consideration of the evidence submitted—which consisted of undisputed, and, in our judgment, indisputable original papers and entries in books kept by and obtained from the company, sustained and satisfactorily explained by uncontradicted oral evidence—we find and award

That the said National Trust Company, otherwise known as the Nation Trust Company, is indebted to the City of Pittsburgh, on account of deposits made in the name of John Ross, and of "John Ross, Secretary" of the Board of Water Commissioners of said city, including interest (at six per cent. per annum,) on daily balances up to this date, (December 19, 1873,) in the sum of two hundred and thirty-eight thousand nine hundred and four dollars and two cents, ($238,904 02,) which is to bear interest from this date until paid.

We append hereto a summary statement of the elements or items of which our award is the result.

Witness our hands this 19th day of December, A. D. 1873.

WM. HOLMES,
THOS. M HOWE,
JAS. VERREH.

SUMMARY STATEMENT.

Amount of deposits—proceeds of water extension bonds	$297,656 00	
Amount of credit or deposit on account of thirty-third street bonds	8,000 00	
Dishonored check of Cashier of Nation Trust Company given to John Ross and subsequently credited to him in account, along with the aforesaid $8,000	15,000 00	
Account kept by John Ross for the Nation Trust Company to John G. MacConnell, Esq., attorney, on its protested check for $5,000, under agreement by the cashier to credit said payment to said Ross' account in bank, and for which he gave him the proper deposit *tab*—proven by the *tab* and the evidence of said Ross and MacConnell	2,500 00	
Proceeds of note of H. B. Swoope, Esq., for $3,000, dated September 2, 1873, at ninety days—the discounting of which by the Nation Trust Company was protested by the bank—the following been charged in account by said company with his checks to Thomas MacConnell, Esq., of the *Morning Post*, as compensation for the full amount of said note, which note has been paid to its maker to the receiver of the Nation Trust Company, but no credit had been given for said proceeds to Ross by the Nation Trust Company	2,938 00	
Amount of interest (at six per cent. per annum) on the foregoing	9,909 36	
CREDIT—The following checks drawn by Ross upon and paid by the Nation Trust Co. the following credits included in the debit side of this statement:		
August 15, 1873	$15,000	
" 16, 1873	15,000	
" 26, 1873	10,000	
Sept. 2, 1873	932	
" 2, 1873	1,000	
" 15, 1873	15,000	
" 15, 1873	200	
" 19, 1873	20,000	
" 20, 1873	4,000	
" 22, 1873	500	
Oct. 24, 1873	500	
	$97,000 00	
	$238,904 02	

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Common Pleas—Judges Stowe and Collier.

The case of the P., V. & C. R. R. vs. George W. Cass, Esq., reported yesterday, is still on trial before Judge Collier.

Edward Bourne vs. the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. This was an action brought to recover for repairs to the heating apparatus of the Asylum.

District Court—Judges Ewing and White.

The case of J. Sharp McDonald vs. Daniel Risher and R. R. Robinson, owners of the steamer "Tom Dodsworth," previously reported, is still on trial before Judge Ewing.

The case of Charles Wenzer vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, previously reported, was continued, and the jurors withdrawn.

David B. Morris vs. the Carson street M. E. Church and J. T. Natcher, contractor. Action on a mechanic's lein to recover $900 for plastering, etc., still on trial.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Sterrett.

Fred. Deppold, for illegal liquor selling, was fined $60.

Thos. Johnston was convicted of unlawfully wounding and cutting Frank Gent.

Mathias Ballanberg was convicted of entering a building with felonious intent—on oath of Mr. Langshourg.

James Thompson plead guilty to larceny, and was sent one year to the workhouse.

T. A. Fields, charged with illegally selling a pistol case over the Connellsville Railroad, plead guilty and was remanded for sentence.

Edward Wadsworth, who plead guilty to larceny, was committed to the Western Reformatory.

Patrick Meehan was found guilty of a charge of larceny.

In the case of John Bracken, George Arnold, Pat Meehan and Reddy Wampler, for entering a building with intent to commit a felony, the jury returned a verdict of guilty as to Bracken and Arnold, and not guilty as to Pat Meehan and Reddy Wampler.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Geo. Black,	James Avery,
John Butting,	Catharine Hanna,
Samuel and Maria	George Witmer,
Rosenbaugh,	J. W. Mullikin,
Wm. Hein,	Fred Johnson.
J. McNary,	

THE McGOWAN-REMINGTON SPECULATION.

The Property Holders Not Much Disturbed in Regard to Their Titles.

Yesterday we gave publicity to the fact that P. G. Remington and C. McGowan had made application to the Land Office at Harrisburg for warrants covering that part of the city lying between Garrison alley on the west, Fourteenth (old Factory) street on the east, Penn avenue on the south, and the Allegheny river on the north. It was suspected that this was a case somewhat similar to the effort made to get possession of the "made ground" at the Point, and it turns out to be so. This effort, however, dwarfs the former one, when the value and extent of the territory are considered. The ground at the Point might be taken without inflicting serious damage upon any individual, but the effort to divest hundreds of property holders of their titles to property worth many millions, is to say the least a most extraordinary one. But the owners of the land, who trace their titles back to the Penns, do not seem at all alarmed at the attempt to oust them. The applicants for the warrants are land surveyors and civil engineers, doing business in this city, and they claim to know precisely what they are about. The allege that neither of the Penns, nor the Penn heirs, had any right whatever to convey this land, as it was outside of the Penn manor—the State having divested Wm. Penn of his rights to public lands not included in the manor. If Penn or his heirs ever entered these lands, there is no record of it, and the applicants claim that there is nothing to prevent them from proceeding to possess the lands in the usual way. The owners, however, or such of them as have had the matter brought to their attention, think they will have no difficulty in defending their titles.

Street Committee Meeting.

A meeting of the Street Committee was held last evening when the following business was transacted:

The petition for the opening of Pike street from Seventeenth to Twenty-first street, was read and an ordinance ordered.

The ordinance for the opening of Sarah street, from Thirtieth street to the city line, was laid over until next meeting.

A communication from Theodore F. Smith, U. S. A., on special duty at the office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, at Washington, is out on a tour of investigation of the weather signal offices. Yesterday, Lieut. Smith visited Jennings' Tame's Pyrenees, illustrated by Doré. 20 00
China's Home, one-half turkey, illustrated 15 00
Doré's Don Quixote, one-half turkey, illustrated ..